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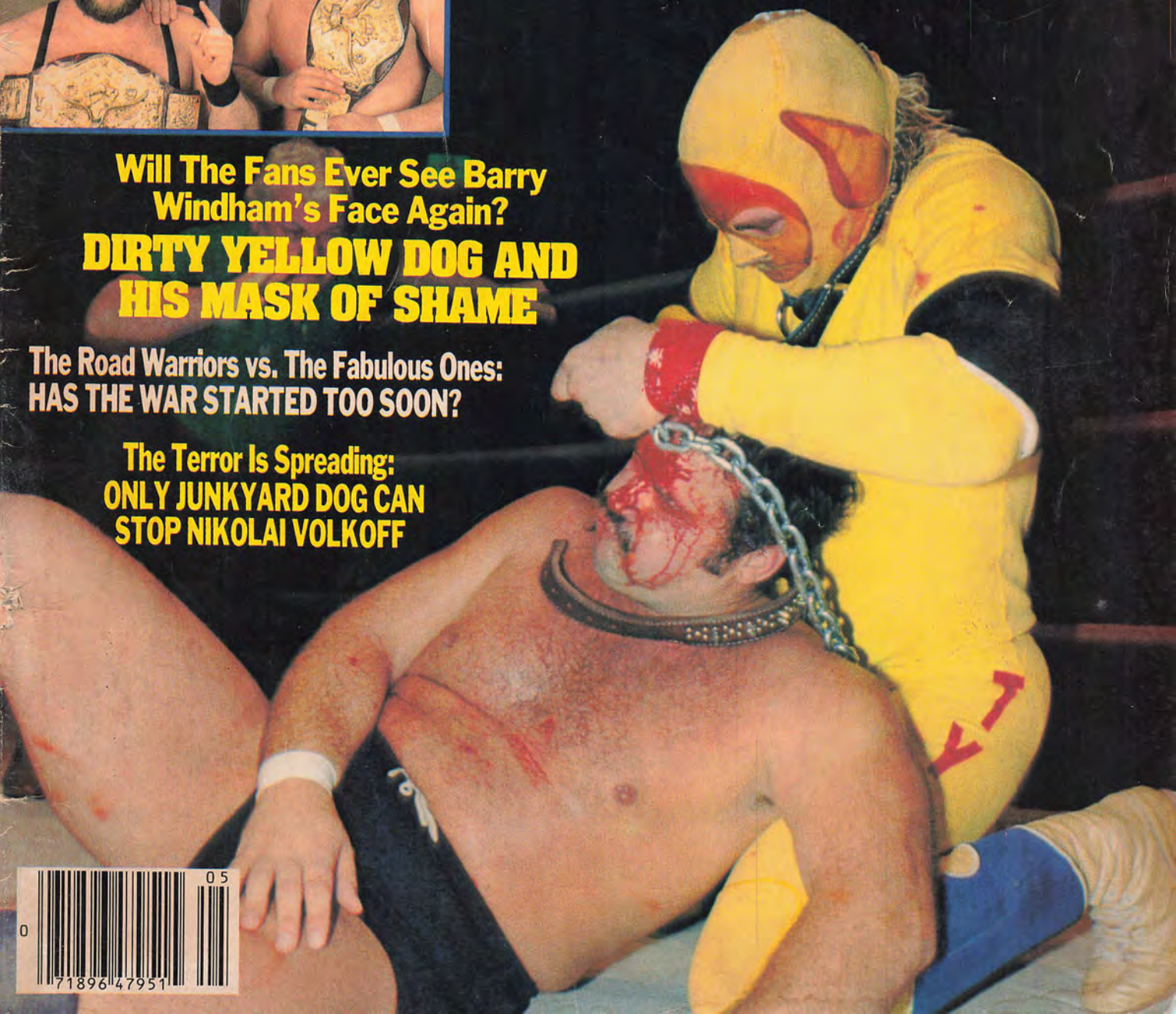


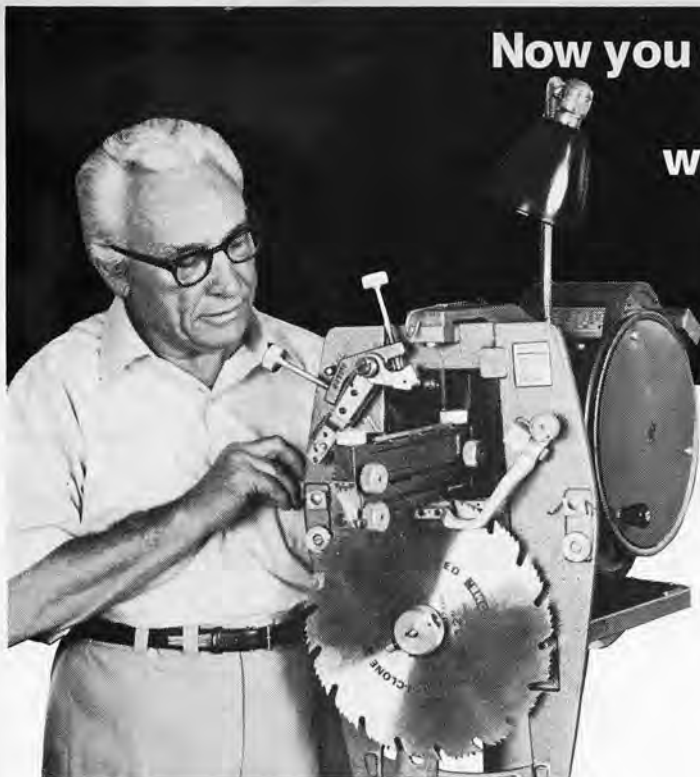
Gary Hart's Greatest Managerial Feat:
**"HOW I GUIDED KERNODLE AND ORTON
TO THE WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE!"**

Will The Fans Ever See Barry
Windham's Face Again?
**DIRTY YELLOW DOG AND
HIS MASK OF SHAME**

The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones:
HAS THE WAR STARTED TOO SOON?

The Terror Is Spreading:
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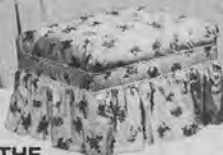
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Wrestler^{THE}

CONTENTS/MAY 1984

- 6 YOUR LETTERS**
WWF Is A Mess; WWC Is The Best; Goodbye To Rick
- 10 WHAT'S HAPPENING**
All the latest news as of press time
- 12 CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS**
Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches
- 14 THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN**
Cheers and jeers to those who deserve them most
- 18 YOU ASKED US**
Top stars answer YOUR questions
- 20 INTRODUCING STEVE WILLIAMS**
A sizzling profile of "Dr. Death"
- 22 Q & A**
A timely discussion with Chris Adams
- 26 X-RAY**
Our panel of experts examines Tito Santana
- 28 SPOTLIGHT ON PAUL ORNDORFF**
"Mr. Wonderful" stars in a special *Wrestler* feature
- 30 THE ROAD WARRIORS VS. THE FABULOUS ONES:
HAS THE WAR STARTED TOO SOON?**
A well-known neutral observer says this matchup was a mistake!
- 32 THE RIC FLAIR-BRUISER BRODY BRAWL:
WHAT ST. LOUIS WRESTLING IS ALL ABOUT!**
Some have already called this the match of the year!
- 34 WILL THE FANS EVER SEE BARRY WINDHAM'S FACE
AGAIN? DIRTY YELLOW DOG AND HIS MASK OF SHAME**
Beneath the mask, Windham is not the same man
- 36 THE TERROR IS SPREADING:
ONLY JUNKYARD DOG CAN STOP NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**
America vs. Russia in the Mid-South!
- 38 MATT BROCK'S LOOKING BACK**
October 8, 1958: Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor
- 40 GARY HART'S GREATEST MANAGERIAL FEAT:
"HOW I GUIDED ORTON AND KERNODLE TO THE
WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE!"**
Hart explains his championship strategy
- 43 RATINGS ANALYSIS**
Closeup on St. Louis; Regarding Tag Teams; and more
- 44 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
The sport's most respected rankings

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YOUR LETTERS

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Hulk Hogan (above) did not deserve his WWF title opportunity, writes Dave Siff. Reader Javier Fernandez is pleased that WWC Universal champion Carlos Colon (right) is getting some recognition.

WWF IS A MESS

I was shocked and amazed. I was watching a televised segment of WWF wrestling when it was announced that Bob Backlund was injured and would not be able to wrestle WWF champion Iron Sheik in Madison Square Garden. So the WWF ratings committee determined a new number one contender to face the Sheik: Hulk Hogan.

What an outrage!

Hogan had only been back in the WWF for a week and he was granted a title shot! What about Tito Santana, Rocky Johnson, Tony Atlas, Ivan Putski, or Jimmy Snuka? Although these men had

matches scheduled for that particular card, all of them are far more deserving of a title shot than Hogan, and I'm sure that each would have welcomed the chance to wrestle for the title.

I guess it's not surprising, though, when you consider what a joke the WWF is. I thought it was a mess when Backlund was champion, but it's even worse now that he's not.

DAVE SIFF
Trumbull, CT

WWC IS THE BEST

I'm writing this letter concerning the "Official Wrestling Ratings" in
(Continued on page 8)



BIG MUSCLES? In 7 days

my method of **DYNAMIC-TENSION** starts giving you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed.

Lose "pot belly." Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a **REAL** man! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach... shy of girls... afraid of healthy competition.

HOW I CHANGED FROM A 97 LB. WEAKLING TO A REAL MAN.

One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" — a "magic formula" that can help turn you, too, into a marvellous physical specimen... a **REAL** man from head to toe... a man who **STANDS OUT** in any crowd! What's my secret? "**DYNAMIC-TENSION**" — the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body — build them up — use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard **SOLID MUSCLE!**

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

your magazine. They are fabulous. But one thing you don't have in this section is the best area for wrestling in the world: Puerto Rico, with the World Wrestling Council and its fiery champion, Carlos Colon.

Carlos Colon captured the WWC heavyweight title from Abdullah the Butcher. He successfully defended the crown against men like Ric Flair, Harley Race, Tamba, Roddy Piper, Abdullah the Butcher, King Tonga, Dory Funk Jr., King Kong Mosca, Terry Funk, Kendo Nagasaki, Ox Baker, and dozens of other great stars. Now Colon holds the WWC Universal heavyweight championship, and he is certainly destined for wrestling immortality.

There are other great stars in the WWC: Pedro Morales, Bob Sweetan, The Invaders, The Masked Medics, Hercules Ayala, El Gran Apollo, Pierre Martel, Victor Jovică, Gama Singh, and many more.

The action in the Puerto Rico area is wild and exciting. This area has become the hotbed of activity in the wrestling world.

Please expand your coverage of Carlos Colon, Puerto Rico, and the WWC in the future. Thank you.

JAVIER FERNANDEZ
San Juan, Puerto Rico

[Editor's note: We are planning extensive coverage of Colon and major WWC events in the near future. Watch the pages of this magazine and "This Month In" for details.]

GOODBYE TO RICK

The worst thing to happen to wrestling in the five years that I have followed the sport is the retirement of Rick Steamboat. He is

the most deserving champion the sport has had in many years. I couldn't believe it when he said he was going to retire. Rick and Jay Youngblood worked hard to win the NWA World tag team title. They were the best tag team in wrestling. It's such a shame to see them split up after all those matches with Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle and the Briscos. I only wish there was some way to get him to come back. I guess wrestling isn't what he wants anymore. Well, I wish him all the luck in the world. He's going to be missed. He will always be a champion in the fans' hearts.

Goodbye, Rick. We're all going to miss you. You'll never be forgotten.

KIM BROCKMAN
Culpeper, VA

HAIL TO THEE, DiBIASE!

An open letter to Ted DiBiase:

Well, Ted, it seems you've had quite a few opportunities lately to prove yourself and be a real winner. You now hold the National heavyweight title, and you just beat Tommy Rich in a match that stipulated that Tommy would leave wrestling for good if he lost.

Now, Ted, you have the opportunity to be the biggest winner of all. Show the entire wrestling world how magnanimous you can be because of your true greatness. Allow Tommy Rich to remain in wrestling. All you have to do is void the contract. You won, so you alone have the power to do it.

Of course, Tommy will be forever beholden to you for doing this—whether he likes it or not. Even the great Julius Caesar turned "thumbs up" every now and then.

You will have scored another triumph over Rich—and the wres-



Rick Steamboat, who retired to devote full time to his gymnasium, will be sorely missed by Kim Brockman and many other fans around the world.

tlung world—by being a bigger man than anyone else in your position would dare to be. It's being masterful, not merciful.

Besides, you might enjoy the pleasure of beating Rich again somewhere down the line. But I doubt it. He could never again match up to a grappler of your caliber. At any rate, Ted, use your power and let the boy stay. Then who could refuse to Hail DiBiase!

GINGER PERRY
Columbus, OH □

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GAIN ^{UP} _{TO} 5, 10, 15 POUNDS

without dangerous drugs, without exercise,
without unpleasant tasting medicines,
MEN—an impressive manly body,
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If you had started this amazing method just a few short weeks ago, right now you could be up to 5, 10, even 15 pounds heavier or more!

At last, no matter what you have tried, no matter what you have done, if you are a normally healthy person, you can gain up to 5, 10, 15 pounds or more safely, surely, pleasantly, and that's a guaranteed money-back fact.

Yes now, even if you have been thin for years, you can have the fuller, more attractive body you have always wanted without dangerous drugs, without heart-straining exercise, without unpleasant tasting medicines!

This exciting method is easy, pleasant, and medically sound beyond a shadow of a doubt, and your own Doctor could tell you the same thing.

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SKINNY MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE



... a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give the GAIN Plan a chance to help build you up and put firm flesh on you.

thrilled to discover that as you gain weight you will have more pep and energy for all the wonderful things in life!

THINK OF WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU

If you are one of those unfortunate people who can't wear all the new high style clothes you want to wear... if you are ashamed of the way you look in a bathing suit... embarrassed because your legs are too thin and spindly... your chest is too flat... your arms aren't the full, rounded limbs they were meant to be... If you long for a more attractive-looking body, the safe, pleasant GAIN Plan can be the answer to your prayers!

Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh... so full-filling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

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We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straight-forward offer...

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MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Send for the GAIN Plan today. Try it for 7 days entirely at our risk. If, at the end of 7 days, you haven't started to gain pounds and inches and to look better and to feel better... If you aren't convinced the GAIN Plan is a safe, pleasant, way to gain weight, don't keep it! Return the empty bottle and get your money back immediately, no questions asked!

VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt... even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

When **Angelo Mosca Jr.** won the Mid-Atlantic championship in January, he might have taken the belt from the most undeserving champion ever. **Ivan Koloff** held the belt, but he didn't have to wrestle anyone to get it!

Koloff was given the belt by **Dick Slater**, who had simultaneously held both the Mid-Atlantic and U.S. heavyweight ti-

my way of saying 'thank you' for all the help."

Gary Hart, who manages both Koloff and Slater, certainly approved of the transaction, and so apparently did the NWA, which didn't exercise its right to veto. As for Mosca, he doesn't care how his predecessor became champion. "I worked very hard to get where I am today," said 1983's Rookie of the Year. "Winning the Mid-Atlantic title, *especially* from a man of Koloff's stature, is the greatest accomplishment of my career."

As of press time, the title

transfer has not been vetoed by the NWA.

Last issue, this column reported the news that **The Iron Sheik** had captured the WWF heavyweight title from **Bob Backlund**. Now we report that the WWF has another new champion: **Hulk Hogan**. Hogan defeated Sheik on January 23 in New York City's Madison Square Garden in 5:40. The bout was originally scheduled as a rematch between Sheik and Backlund, but injuries prevented Backlund from wrestling. The WWF ratings com-

(Continued on page 64)



Ivan Koloff kept the gift Dick Slater gave him for only a short time: Angelo Mosca Jr. has upset Koloff for the Mid-Atlantic title.

ties. The obvious question is: Why?

"Ivan had helped me train for a lot of big matches over the past few months," Slater explained. "He's been a good friend to me, and that was just



Hulk Hogan is announced as the new WWF champion, leaving The Iron Sheik to wonder what had happened in the fastest 5:40 of his life.

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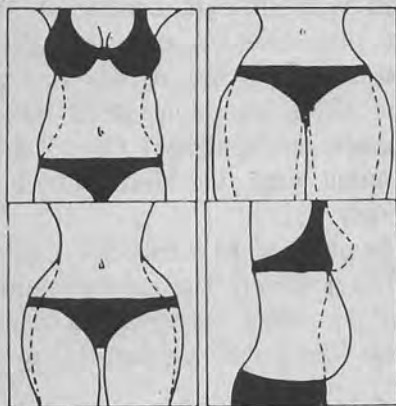
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Bridgetown, Barbados, (Correspondent: Emily Bertram): In a much-anticipated matchup, NWA World champion Ric Flair defended his belt against WWC Universal champion Carlos Colon.

Colon, Puerto Rico's foremost wrestling star, matched the NWA champion move for move. At one point, Colon broke free from Flair's figure-four leglock. Soon, Flair caught Colon in a standing guillotine, which the Universal champion reversed.

Frustrated by Colon's amazing countering skills, Flair resorted to brawling, which caught Colon off-guard. With help from the ring ropes, Flair pinned Colon. Seeing this indiscretion, the referee disqualified the World champion, giving the match, but not Flair's title, to Colon.

In other bouts, Bob Sweetan and Pedro Morales were both disqualified . . . King Tonga defeated Roddy Piper by disqualification . . . The Masked Medics defeated

Pierre Martel and Victor Jovica . . . Donna Christantello defeated Judy Martin . . . Sweet Daddy Siki defeated The Unknown . . . Gino Caruso defeated Barrabas . . . Pisses defeated Tornado.

Las Vegas, Nevada, (Correspondent: Jay Elliott Jr.): Wrestling fans at the Showboat Sports Pavilion were treated to a mammoth eight-man tag team match.

On one side of the ring stood Mr. Saito with Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, along with his AWA tag team champions, Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell. They squared off against Mad Dog Vachon, Baron Von Raschke, and "The Hi-Flyers," Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell.

The fan favorites attacked their opponents as the opening bell sounded. A mini-Battle Royal ensued with all eight combatants in the ring simultaneously. Although Kaissie did his best to stay out of the action, the bout ended when Vachon double-flipped Gagne and Brunzell onto the Sheik for the victory.

In other bouts, Blackjack Lanza defeated Bobby Heenan by count-out . . . Billy Robinson defeated Jesse Ventura by disqualification.



Ric Flair had one of his toughest NWA World title defenses recently, when he faced WWC Universal champion Carlos Colon.

Marion, Ohio, (Correspondent: John Walker): The main event at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum was a six-man Streetfight. The Road Warriors, Animal and Hawk, with their manager, Paul Ellering, challenged Brett and Buzz Sawyer, and their partner the "Mysterious Mr. R."

All six men brawled from the opening bell. As Buzz was body-slammng Precious Paul on the concrete floor outside the ring, Brett and Mr. R. used wood splinters to carve the foreheads of The Road Warriors.

The Warriors jumped from the ring to assist their manager. When

(Continued on page 62)



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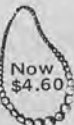


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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



THUMBS UP to Bobby Heenan: There is now talk that the NWA and AWA World titles may someday be consolidated, leaving professional wrestling with a single world champion. If that happens, Bobby Heenan, manager of AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel, would be responsible. Heenan offered the NWA champion, be it Ric Flair or any man who might take his title, a winner-take-all title match with Bockwinkel as the main event of a future wrestling card in St. Louis. The discussion of such a match is still in the preliminary stages, but Heenan must be commended for making a unification battle more possible than it has ever been before.



THUMBS UP to Matt Borne: Borne had returned to his native Pacific Northwest region as a rulebreaker, but he has changed his ways and has decided to side with fan favorites like Curt Hennig and Scott McGhee against Rip Oliver's Clan. Borne attacked Oliver and The Assassin during a tag team match against Pacific Northwest tag team champions Hennig and McGhee, afterward claiming that he could not befriend Oliver, whom he had feuded with years ago. He has now dedicated himself to running Oliver and his compatriots out of the region, for which the fans are not only shocked, but very pleased.



THUMBS UP to Johnny Rich: Although we would normally award a "thumbs down" to Johnny Rich for escalating his current feud with Ted DiBiase, we are nevertheless compelled to support Rich in his campaign against the current National heavyweight champion. What DiBiase did to Bob Armstrong was wholly reprehensible: He attacked Armstrong, breaking both his cheekbones and mangling his face so horribly that it will require extensive plastic surgery to repair. For this inhuman act, DiBiase deserves to be banned forever from wrestling, but since the NWA has failed to act on the matter, Johnny's form of revenge seems to be the only alternative.



THUMBS UP to Carlos Colon: The holder of the World Wrestling Council Universal heavyweight championship is currently riding a rising tide of popularity—well-deserved, we might add. Colon is a consummate wrestler, a man of superb scientific knowledge and skills. We salute Colon's reputation for excellence and draw our readers' collective attention to him. Colon appeared at the record-breaking "Starrcade '83" Thanksgiving wrestling card in Greensboro, North Carolina, and he appears in televised matches regularly throughout Puerto Rico, The Caribbean, and now in New York City. One of the truly admirable athletes in the sport, Carlos Colon stands as a shining example of the best that wrestling has to offer.

Thumbs Down



THUMBS DOWN to Jim Cornette: During a recent installment of televised Mid-South wrestling, Jim Cornette loudly proclaimed that his tag teams were not receiving title shots against the Mid-South tag champions, Mr. Wrestling II and Magnum T.A. As Cornette was raving, two of his men, Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby, ran out of the dressing room, hit Wrestling II on the head with a club, and proceeded to "tar and feather" Magnum T.A. (actually using molasses and feathers). We have no doubt that Dennis and Bobby (also known as The Midnight Express) were acting on the orders of Cornette. If we had our way, Cornette and The Midnight Express would be banned from wrestling in the Mid-South area for *at least* a year.



THUMBS DOWN to Koko Ware: This Mid-Southern fan favorite used to wrestle under a mask as Stagger Lee. Recently, Koko Ware has decided to don the mask and take the name Stagger Lee once more. We say "thumbs down" for two reasons. First of all, Koko should be confident enough in his own abilities and skills that he shouldn't have to hide behind a mask. Second, there is simply no reason for him to wear the mask. Everyone knows that Stagger Lee and Koko Ware are one and the same. One reason some rulebreakers wear masks (and a main reason Koko wore a mask years ago before he turned away from rule-breaking) is to load them with foreign objects.



THUMBS DOWN to Kevin Sullivan: By throwing a bottle of ink into the face of Dusty Rhodes' sister, Connie, Sullivan not only injured a young woman and ruined what should have been a joyous occasion for the Rhodes family, but he almost brought an end to the career of the "American Dream." Sullivan was barred from wrestling throughout the South as punishment for this heinous act, and Rhodes threatened to quit wrestling if he was not allowed the chance to exact revenge on the satan-worshipping Sullivan. The entire affair scarred professional wrestling, and Sullivan has proved once again that he is without any moral fiber.



THUMBS DOWN to Bulldog Bob Brown: Avalanche Tyler and Brown were Central States tag team titlists until an injury suffered by Brown forced the team to forfeit the belts. In a match to declare new champions, Tyler and King Cobra battled Tully Blanchard and Crazy Luke Graham. During the bout, Brown let his emotions take control of his actions and he charged the ring to attack Blanchard and Graham. The referee called for the bell and Tyler and Cobra were disqualified. The championship is still vacant because of Brown's shameful lack of self-control.

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Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka would welcome an opportunity to team with the high-flying Mil Mascaras.

Q: "My question is for "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka. How would you feel about teaming with another high-flying superstar, Mil Mascaras, for tag team matches?" Steve Ariston, San Pedro, CA

A: "Brother Steve," Snuka replied, "I would love to team with Mil. He's a great wrestler. We wrestle a lot alike, and I think that would help us in tag team matches. Imagine both of us flying off the turnbuckles

onto our opponents at the same time! It would be incredible."

Q: "My question is for Mark Youngblood. What do you think about a woman referee officiating one of your matches?" Pamela Austin, Roanoke, VA

A: "I haven't run into a woman referee yet," Youngblood said, "but if a woman were assigned to one of my matches, and she was competent, I wouldn't mind at all. I'd treat her as a referee, not a woman referee, but just a referee."

Q: "I'd like to ask Bob Backlund what he has planned for the future now that he is no longer WWF champion." Mike Cook, Bellingham, MA

A: "Well, of course, it's gonna take a while to wrap my mind around the fact that I'm not the champ anymore," Backlund said. "I loved being champion, and I loved defending the title in front of you, Mike, and all the fans. I'll miss that. I'm not exactly sure of what I'm going to do next. This is the first chance

I've had in almost six years to actually have much of a say about that. I'm going to take my time and think it over. Thanks for your concern."

Q: "I'd like to know if Kevin Von Erich has any plans to come to the WWF? I think he's the greatest wrestler ever." Rosemarie Sardina, Belleville, NJ



Kevin Von Erich is presently too busy with Buddy Roberts and The Freebirds to come to the WWF.

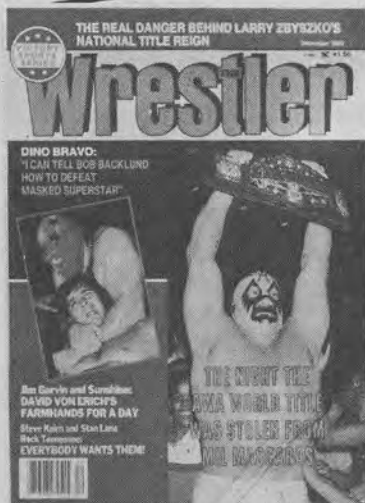
A: "I pretty much have have my hands full down here," Von Erich said. "Texas is a big state, and I have an obligation to the fans down here. There's also a lot of unsettled business with The Freebirds and with Jim Garvin that I have to take care of. I think if you want to see me, Rosemarie, you'll have to come down here to Texas. It's a great state."

Q: "I would like to ask Masked Superstar why he and Super Destroyer broke up their tag team combination?" Mark Natale, Cortland, NY

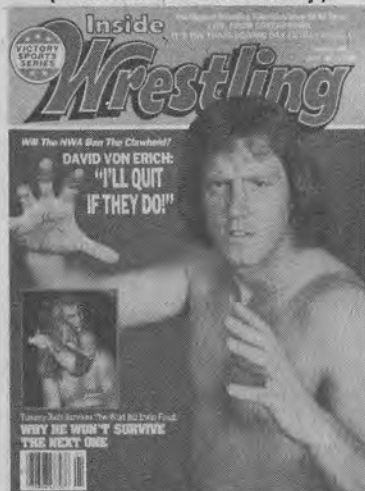
A: "It was a situation where we wanted different things," Superstar said. "Super D was a great partner, but we both lost interest in tag team wrestling. He went out on his own and did very well, and so did I. He's a great

(Continued on page 47)

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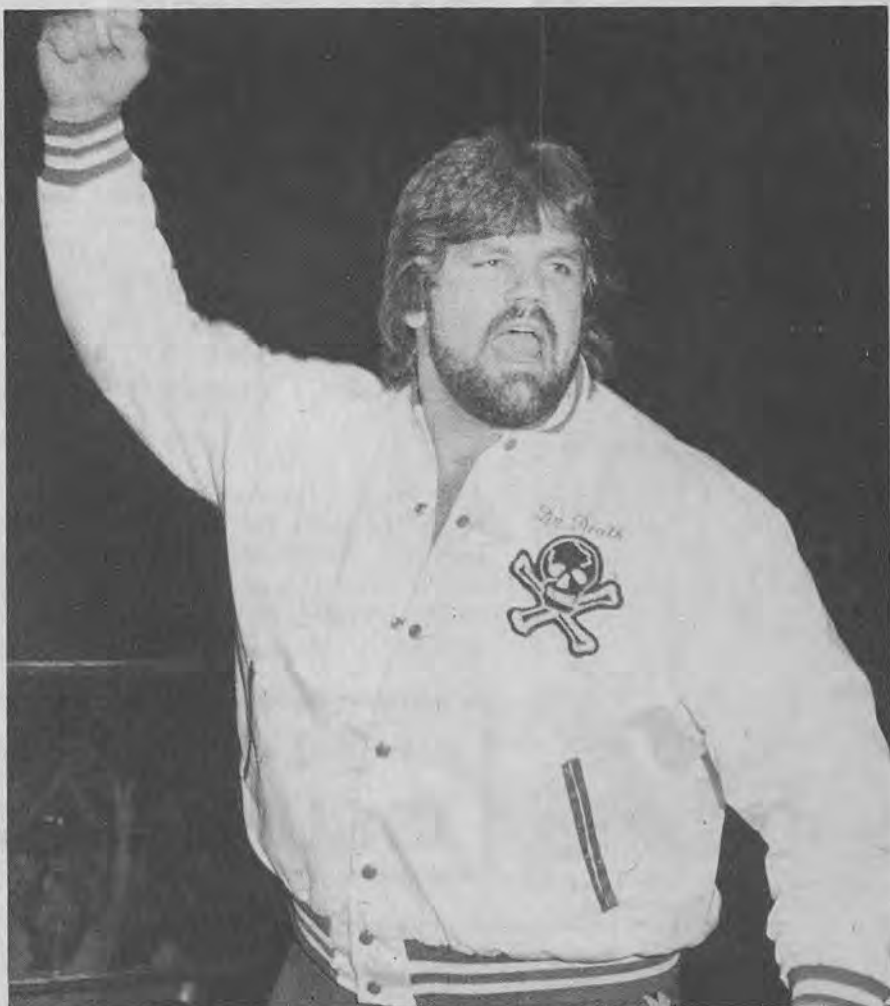
Steve Williams has hung up his football helmet to devote all his time to a career in the ring. "Dr. Death," a former pro gridiron star, has already wrestled against top stars in the Mid-South region and plans to make a definite impact on the sport in the next year

"THE FIRST PERSON who called me 'Dr. Death' was my high school football coach," Steve Williams recalled. "I was always breaking my nose. After the first time it breaks, it's pretty easy to do it again, you know. Anyway, my doctor told me I'd better protect the nose, so I showed up at practice one day with a hockey goalie's mask on. My coach said that all I needed was a black robe and a scythe and I'd look like death."

Packing 295 pounds onto a 6'1" frame, Williams is menacing enough without a robe and scythe. "I looked mean even when I was a kid," he said. "I liked staring down the defensive linemen when I played midget football."

Williams' imposing physical presence contributed to a standout career in wrestling and football at Lakewood (Colorado) High School. From there, Williams entered Oklahoma University, where he started every game for three years at right guard. He was a member of the Oklahoma teams that went to the 1981 Orange Bowl and the 1983 Fiesta Bowl, and was named to the All-Big 8 Conference first team by United Press International.

Williams also excelled in collegiate wrestling. "I enjoyed football," he said, "but as an offensive lineman, I was limited. I was there to block, and I was good at it, but I wanted to do more. Wrestling af-



Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, a former collegiate wrestling champion and pro football player, has known nothing but success in his athletic endeavors. There is no reason to think he will not make it to the top in professional wrestling.

fords me that chance. It gives me a chance to use all my talents."

Williams obviously had talent. He won the Big 8 heavyweight wrestling title three years consecutively. "That made me very proud," he said. "My football accomplishments made the headlines, but I

always got more satisfaction out of wrestling."

Before completing degree studies at Oklahoma, Williams signed a pro football contract with the New Jersey Generals of the United States Football League. His USFL career

(Continued on page 52)

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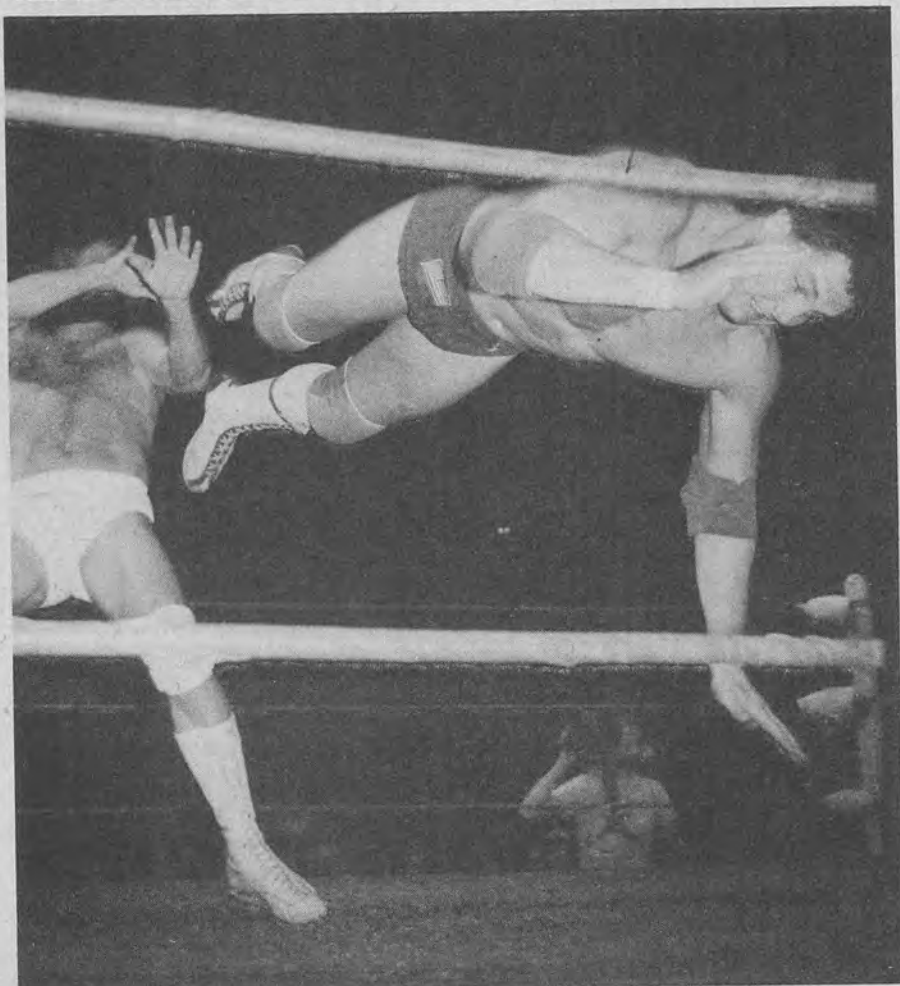
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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



A perfectly executed dropkick by Adams sends Jim Garvin to the canvas. Very soon, one of these two men will be the undisputed World Class American champion.

Q: Specifically, what changes did you make in your career that enabled you to win the World Class American title?

A: Actually, mate, I don't think it was so much a career thing as it was a change in my life. Since I came here to the States, I've had this chip on my shoulder about wanting to do everything on my own. I had something to prove. You know, wrestling in Europe is a lot more scientific than here in the U.S. The American wrestlers are a lot rougher. It was difficult to adapt.

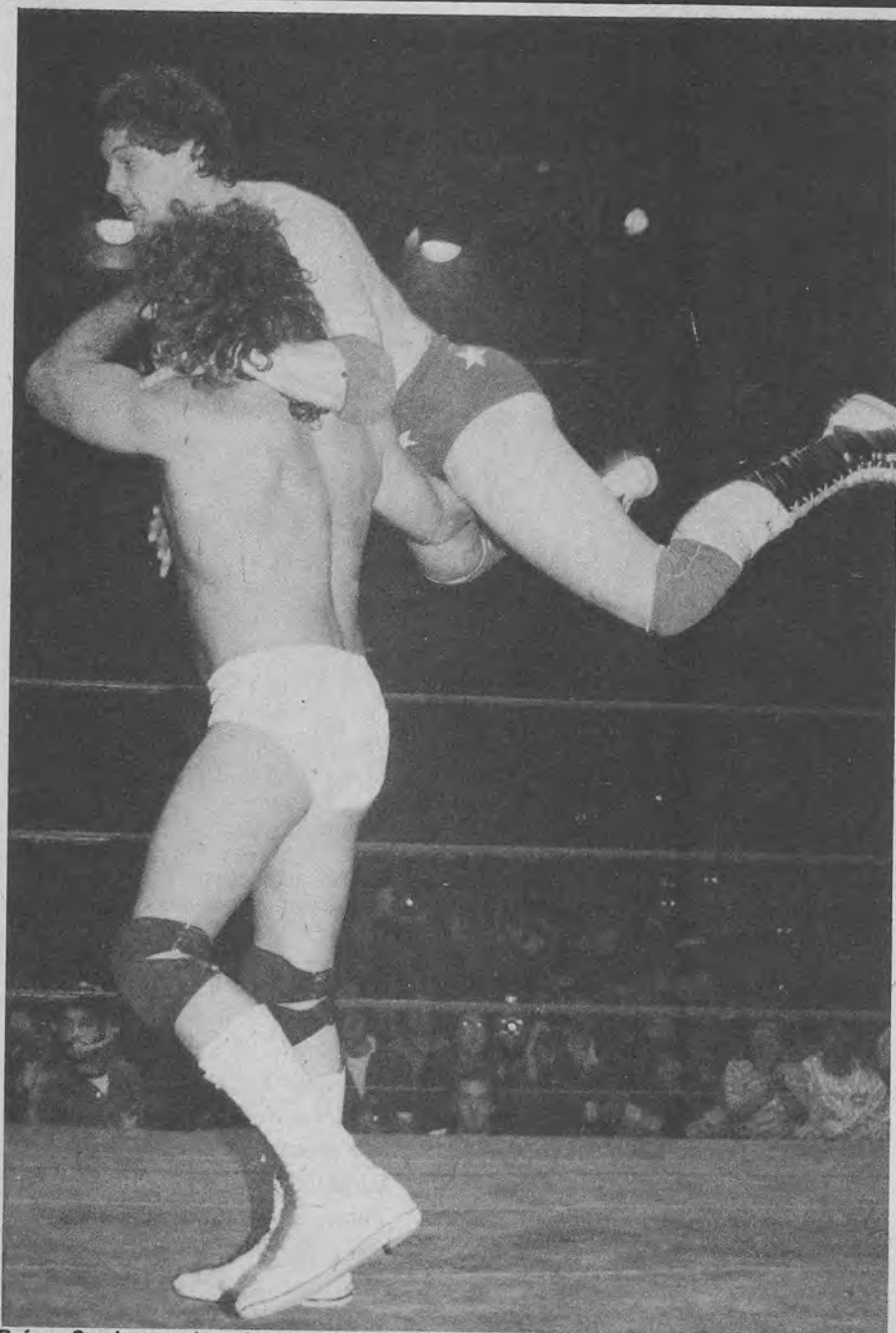
Q: So, what made the difference?

A: I was driving to a match. I was to be in the first match again, you know, the match that no one pays attention to. The fans are usually still in the car park [parking lot] during the first match. So, I was driving to the arena and I saw another car heading right for me. I realized I was on the wrong side of the road. Well, the correct side for home, but not for the States. Anyway, I got over to the right side, and pulled off the road. It was just like my wrestling. I was still doing things like I was still in England. If I was going to be a success here, I was going to have to change. And if I couldn't do it myself, I had better get some help pretty quick. I decided that getting

CHRIS ADAMS



IN THE PAST four months, Chris Adams' wrestling career has changed dramatically. After befriending the Von Erich brothers, good things began to happen for the native of Stratford on Avon, England. Training with Kerry, Kevin, and David, he admits, played a large part in his sudden development and enabled him to climb the World Class Texas rankings. Adams defeated Gorgeous Jim Garvin with assistance from Garvin's former valet Sunshine to win the World Class American championship, a title that is currently surrounded by controversy. Adams discusses this controversy and the rapid advancement of his career with *The Wrestler's* Senior Editor, Bill Apter.



Before Garvin can drop Adams across the top rope, Chris will shift his weight backward and escape his opponent's grasp.

people to help you do something doesn't make you weaker. It makes you stronger.

Q: And that help came from the Von Erichs, right?

A: A lot of it, really. They had forever been asking me to come to the gym with them, and I kept begging off. With this new philosophy of mine, though, I



Adams' friendship with the Von Erichs has drawn him into the feud with Terry Gordy and The Freebirds.

decided to try it out. Right off the mark they were great. Their training methods were much different than my own. They found a regimen of weight training and sparring between themselves that gave them just the right balance of strength and speed. It's magic, really. If

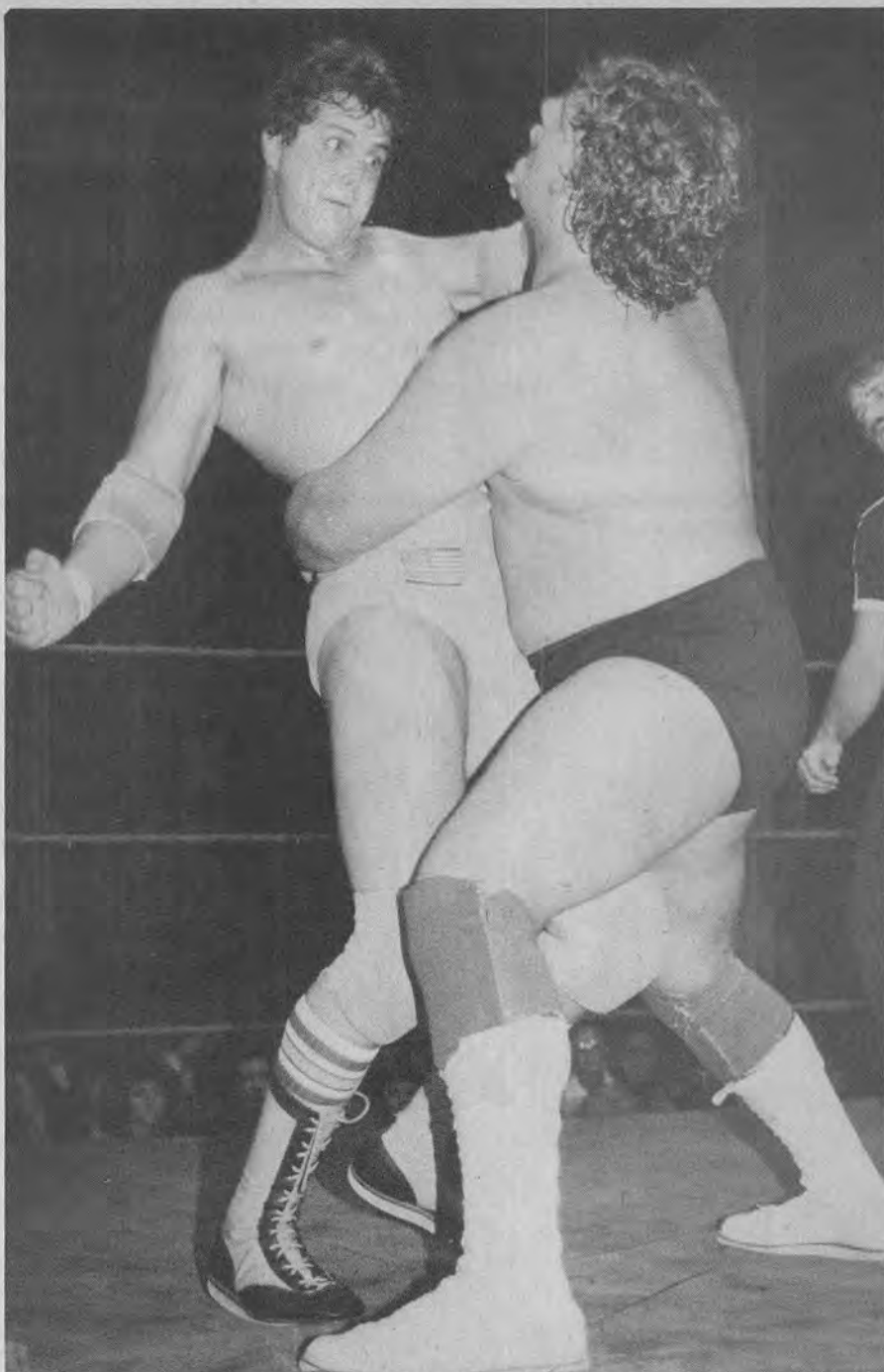
you have all the right tools going into the ring, you have such an advantage over your opponent. I already had the technique. I just wasn't at peak condition. It's like knowing how to use a wrench but not having one to use. I had the knowledge, but not the tools.

Q: You've also participated in a lot of tag team matches with the Von Erichs. That situation started accidentally. Do you want to explain that?

A: Well, the way it started was that Kevin and David were supposed to team up for a match in Corpus Christi. David was flying in from St. Louis, and his plane was held up. So I was sitting in the dressing room waiting for my match and Kevin came in and said to me, "Chris, ol' chap." He always makes fun of my accent. Anyway, he said to me, "You wanna fill in for David?" I jumped at the chance, and it worked really well, so I've kind of become an honorary Von Erich, their cousin from overseas (laughs). Since that match, which, quite frankly, went very well, the Von Erichs have requested me as a tag team partner from time to time. They're great tag team wrestlers and great singles wrestlers. And good friends, also.

Q: You won the World Class American heavyweight title with the help of Jim Garvin's former valet Sunshine. The title, however, is currently being held up because of interference from Garvin's new valet, Precious. With all this going on, basically as a result of these two women, has it made you question whether or not valets have a place in wrestling?

A: Well, first of all, Sunshine is not my valet. I would call her an . . . adviser, maybe even a coach. You know, just because she's a beautiful woman



Adams, who was at first reluctant to use American brawling tactics, uses his fist to escape Gordy's bearhug. Chris now knows that it takes a combination of skill and toughness to make it in American wrestling rings.

doesn't mean she's not intelligent. I think women can be both. And I am more than happy to ask for and receive her help. She knows more about Garvin than anyone in wrestling. She wasn't just sitting around Garvin's practice sessions fixing the seams on her stockings. She was watching and learning. She knows more about wrestling than most people are willing to give her credit

for. She's really an angel!

Q: And what about her rival, Precious?

A: As far as I can tell, this woman isn't worth the inch of makeup she paints her face with. She's blindly devoted to Garvin. Think about that. This woman can't be too intelligent allying herself to a person like Garvin. He treats her like trash. It's almost embarrassing to watch. I would hope that she would re-



With "coaching" from Sunshine, Adams was able to win the American belt. The title is now in limbo.

alize someday what a mistake she's making. But before that happens, Garvin will probably trample all over her. He's a pig. I don't think he knows the meaning of the word "gentleman."

Q: The next step for you and Garvin is a Steel Cage Match, and the American title will go to the winner. Neither Precious nor Sunshine will be able to interfere . . .

A: Sunshine doesn't interfere in my matches.

Q: Okay, Precious won't be able to get into the match action. It's a dangerous match to take—Garvin has a great deal of experience in Cage Matches. How are you preparing for this test?

A: The cage can be dangerous, but I think you have to prepare for it like you would any other match. I have to beat Garvin. I know that he's going to try to use the cage to his best advantage, but that will be his mistake. He'll forget about wrestling, and I'll beat him with wrestling. I have an angel in my pocket, a very smart angel who can tell me exactly what Jimmy Garvin's going to do. □

Wrestling 84

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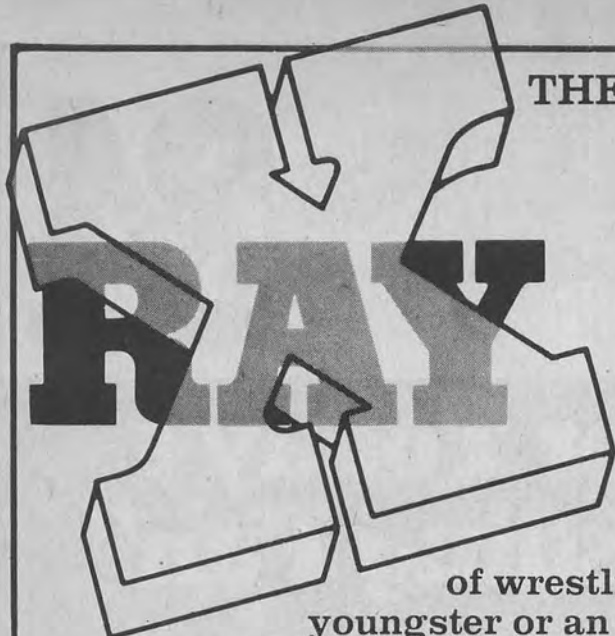


Wrestling 84

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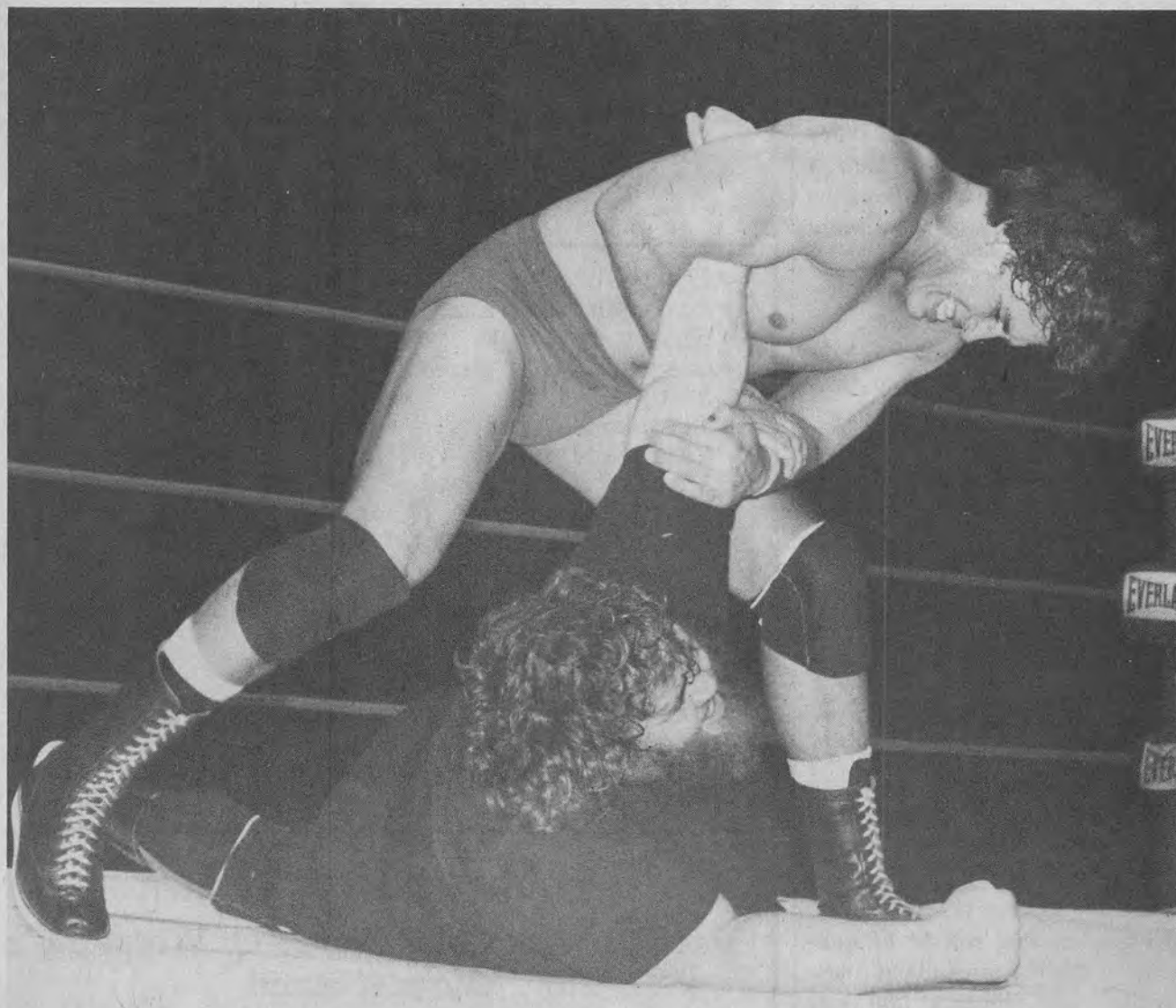
The Best Keeps Getting Better!

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



TITO SANTANA

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Tito Santana, as Eddie Graham points out, has the speed, power, and wrestling knowledge to be a great. The only thing that can possibly hold Tito Santana back is Tito himself. If Santana can utilize his natural enthusiasm in a constructive way and prevent his emotions from making him reckless in the ring, there is no saying how successful he can be. If Tito can control Tito, he can control his destiny.



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"Santana has so much energy, and he uses all of it in his matches. He's come along well in the last couple of years. He has some great maneuvers and he thinks on his feet. 1984 could be the year that Tito Santana jumps into the top 10. He's capable of giving any champion a real challenge right now. It's only a matter of time before he has a belt around his waist."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is considered the finest wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



VERNE GAGNE

"We all know how good a wrestler Tito is, but you have to realize that he has the potential to grow even more. He had so much raw ability when he first started out, and he has sharpened that ability into skill. But he can go a lot further. I look for a lot of great things from Tito Santana in the future, and a lot of great things for him, too. He deserves them."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was recently voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.



GENE KINISKI

"If Tito Santana is going to get anywhere in this sport, he's gonna have to stop playing to the fans and get a little more aggressive in the ring. Anyone can run around the ring screaming 'Arriba,' but not everyone can wear a world championship belt. I think this guy has to get his priorities straightened out. Everyone wants to be champion, but not everyone can be. He's gonna have to get his act together."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.



BUDDY ROGERS

"When Tito is on the same card as Jimmy [Snuka], I always try to find a seat somewhere in the arena to watch his match. As a fan, I really want to see him win. As a former wrestler and as a wrestling manager, I can appreciate his talent. All he needs is to keep himself in the shape he's in and to keep improving. Sooner or later, he'll get a break. Even as talented as he is, he'll need luck, just like everyone else."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold the NWA World and WWF titles. He is currently a wrestling manager and a television commentator.



LOU THESZ

"Tito Santana is a very good wrestler. If he has a fault, it's that sometimes he lets his emotions get the best of him. That can be dangerous in a match situation. Emotion cuts into your thought process. Suddenly, you can't think straight. I've experienced it myself, and there's no way to stop it. You can try your best to control it. He's got to try, or it could ruin him."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



EDDIE GRAHAM

"Here's a man who has a lot of options open to him in the ring. He's fast: He can dazzle you with quick moves. He's powerful: He can hurt you with a bodyslam. And he can dropkick you out of the arena if he wants to. Versatility is a great asset in the ring. Tito's opponents can't set themselves for one type of wrestler, 'cause, in effect, there are three different wrestlers in that ring, all inside one body."

Eddie Graham is a former co-holder of the World tag team title, and was a top contender for the NWA World title.

SPOT LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

PAUL ORNDORFF

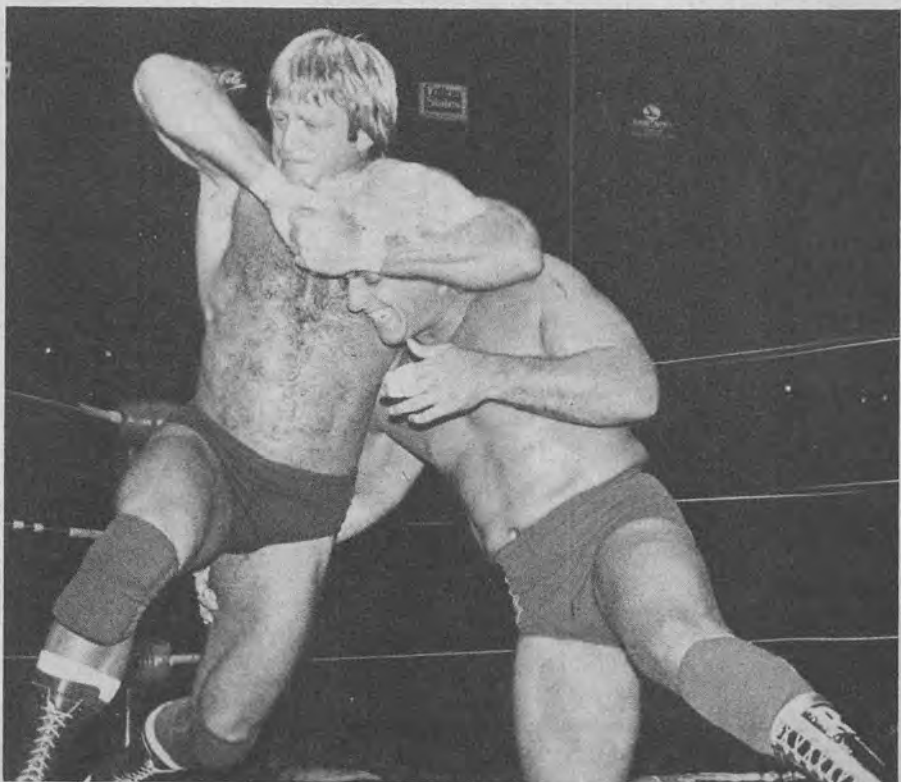
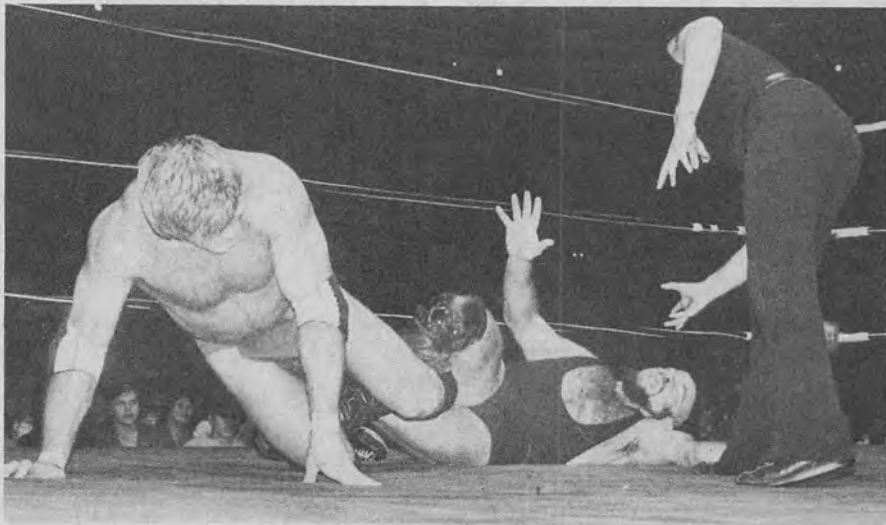


Paul Orndorff (above) no longer enjoys the popularity he did when he wrestled men like Ivan Koloff (right).

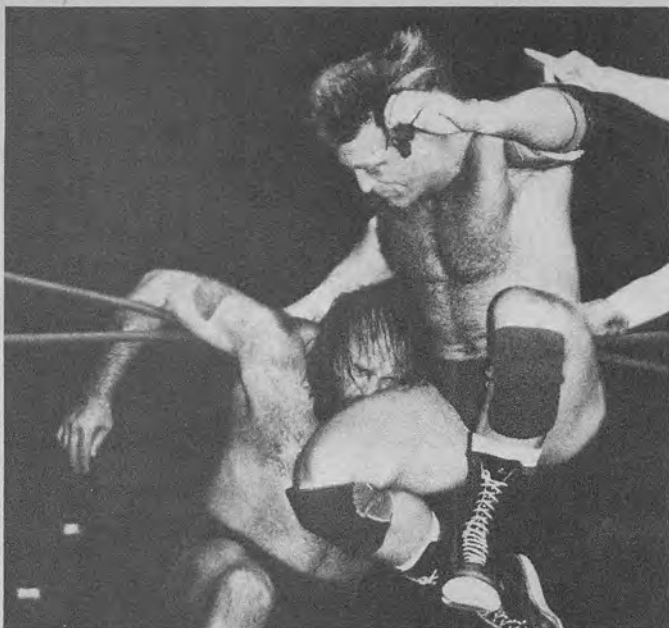
PAUL ORNDORFF IS a man of strong will. Back in 1982, when he was wrestling in the Georgia area, he voiced his determination to win the National heavyweight title from then-champion Super Destroyer. He fulfilled his promise of championship glory, defeating Super D on October 3.

He held the title for only two weeks but vowed to regain the belt from the man who defeated him for the title, Masked Superstar. He did so on November 7. In the months that followed, Orndorff defended the title successfully in a series of brutal wars against both Ivan Koloff and Buzz Sawyer. Orndorff held the title for over four months until he was defeated by Killer Brooks.

Following the loss to Brooks, Orndorff left the Georgia area and went into seclusion. There were rumors that he was going



The definition in Orndorff's arms makes his headlock one of the most effective in the sport, as Ric Flair learns.



Orndorff leaps into the air, driving his thigh into the exposed face of Killer Brooks (above left). "Mr. Wonderful" shows his strength and agility as he armdrags Jimmy Snuka (above right). Orndorff chops Larry Zbyszko down with a chair (below).



to quit professional wrestling, and there were rumors that he was gearing up for a return to the ring that would mark a brand new beginning in the career of the man known as the "Brandon Bull."

Orndorff reemerged on the wrestling scene late in 1983. He chose to wrestle in the WWF area and took on Roddy Piper as a manager. Utilizing a rule-breaking style, Orndorff claimed that he was headed for the WWF championship, then held by Bob Backlund.

Paul Orndorff is a man who does what he says he's going to do. He is not a man of empty promises. So when he says he's going to make it to the top of the WWF, wrestling fans sit up and take notice.

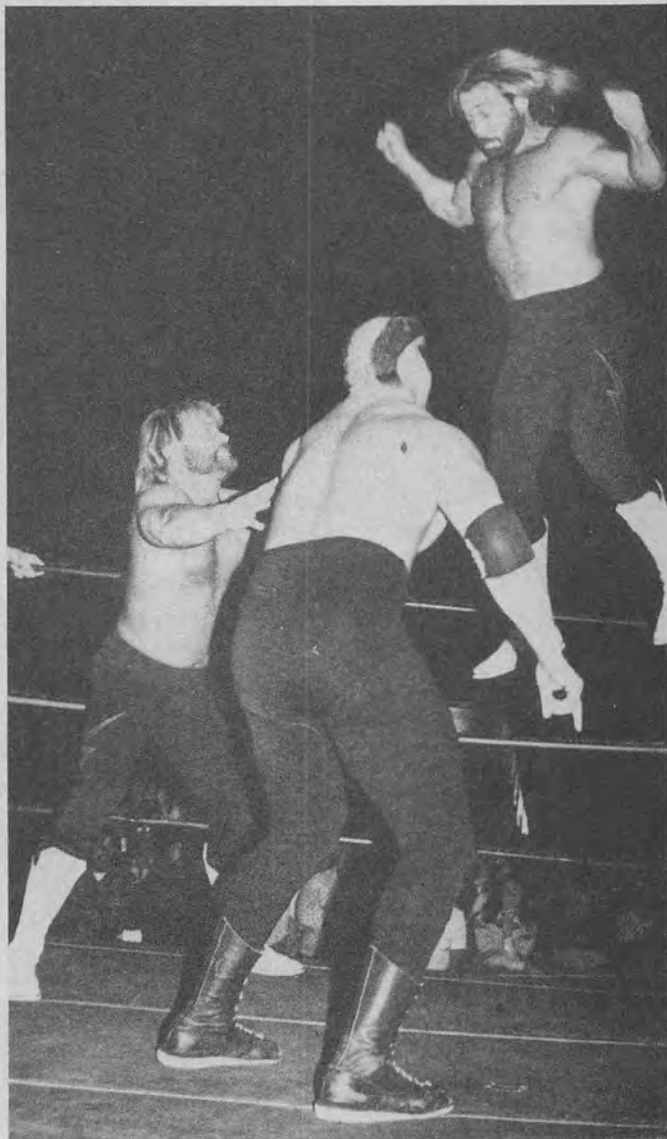
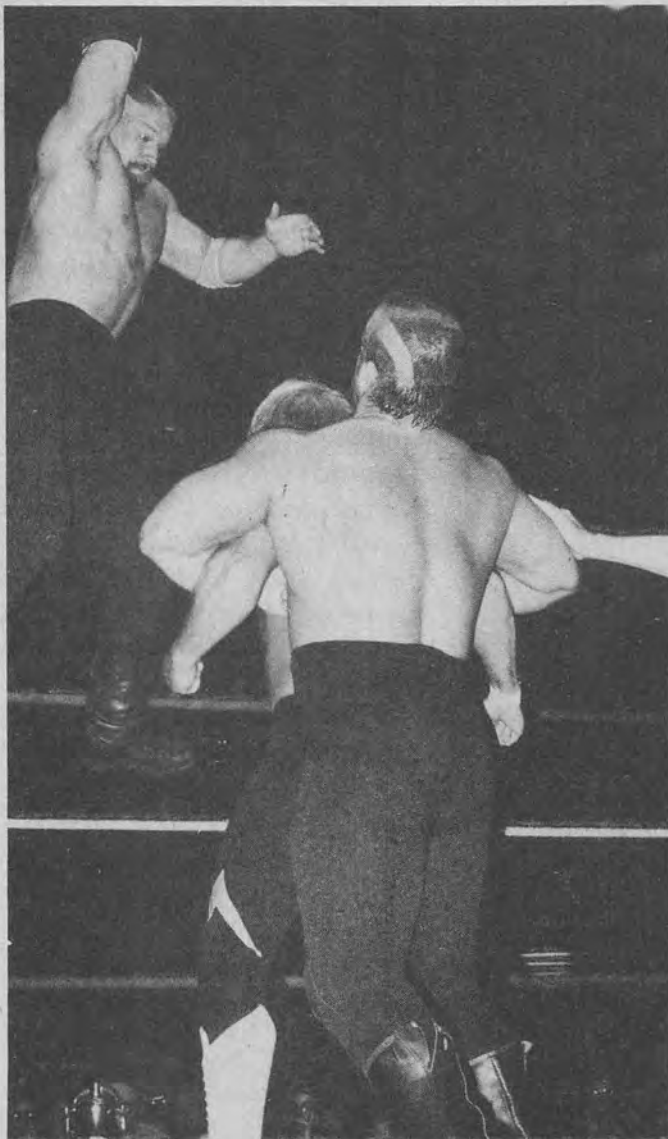
But another reason fans are looking to Orndorff these days is because they want answers: Why did Orndorff leave the Georgia area to compete in the WWF? Why did Orndorff take on Roddy Piper as a manager? And why has Orndorff embraced the rule-breaking philosophy of wrestling?

Those answers may be revealed in the future, but for now we can only marvel at the awesome strength, the formidable skill, and the unnatural aggressiveness that is Paul Orndorff. □

The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones

HAS THE WAR STARTED TOO SOON?

Photos by Scott Romer & Sam Lowe



Road Warrior Hawk delivers an elbowsmash from the top rope against Steve Keirn, who is held in place by Warrior Animal (above left). Things even up a bit as Hawk gets similar treatment from Keirn while being held by Lane (above right).

It was to be the dream match of the 80s: The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones. In a couple of years, it would be the most anticipated tag team matchup ever. But the first shot was fired recently in Memphis, and now a full-scale war, years before its proper time in history, seems imminent

THOUGH HE HAS few friends in wrestling, there are few people who doubt Capt. Lou Albano's knowledge of the sport. Especially when it comes to tag team competition. Albano has guided tag teams to the WWF championship on 14 different occasions. Regardless of two wrestlers' individual talent, Albano has the ability to determine when, in combination, they have the potential for greatness, or when they are destined for failure.

As busy as he is in the WWF area, the Captain still makes time to follow the activity of wrestlers in

other parts of the country. Especially the activity of tag teams. Two teams in particular, The Road Warriors and The Fabulous Ones, have left strong impressions on the veteran manager.

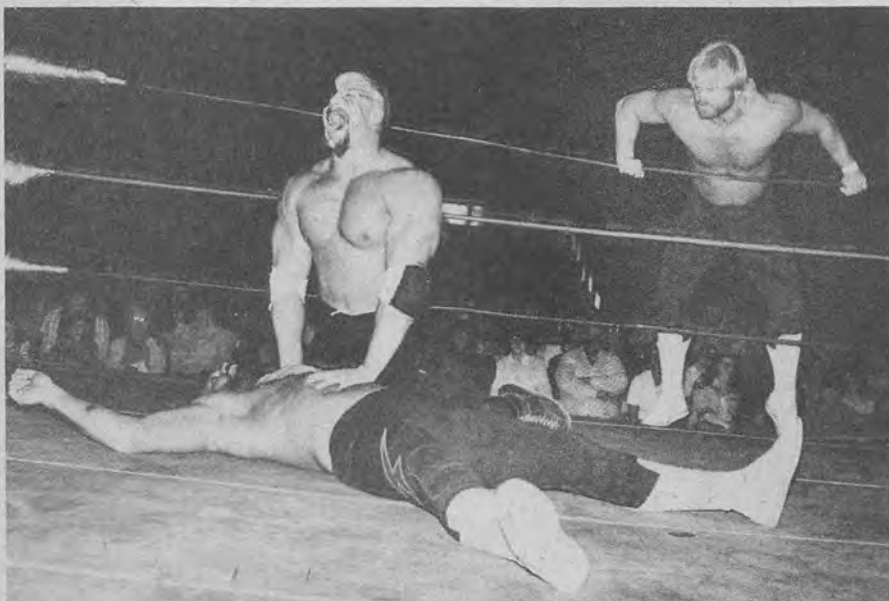
"Two of the finest young tag teams to come along in years," Albano said. "Both teams have the potential to be dominant forces in tag team wrestling for many years to come."

As different as they are in style, The Fabulous Ones and The Road Warriors have one thing in common. Both teams have achieved phenomenal success in a short pe-

riod of time and are ready to vault to the top spot in the tag team ratings.

The only thing that can block their paths to success, Albano believes, is each other. So when the two teams squared off against each other recently in Memphis, the Captain was very critical.

"They should not have wrestled each other for a long time," Albano said. "I never would have signed this match. It was detrimental to both sides. By wrestling



A cocky Hawk is wrong in thinking he can pin Keim with just his hands (above). Animal applies an excruciating backbreaker against Steve (right). Lane's hammerlock has Animal in agony (below).



at this point, they risk beginning a feud that is far before its time. There was no potential to gain anything. A good manager, like the Captain, would have weighed the pluses and minuses of signing such a match.

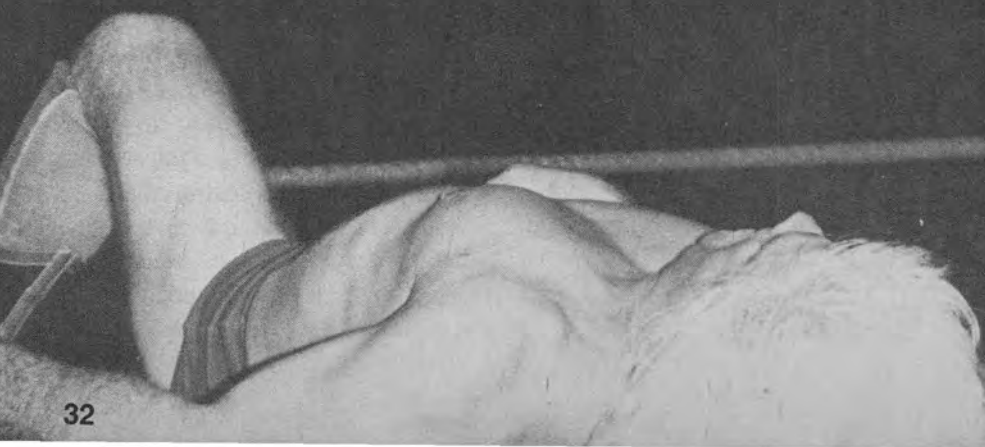
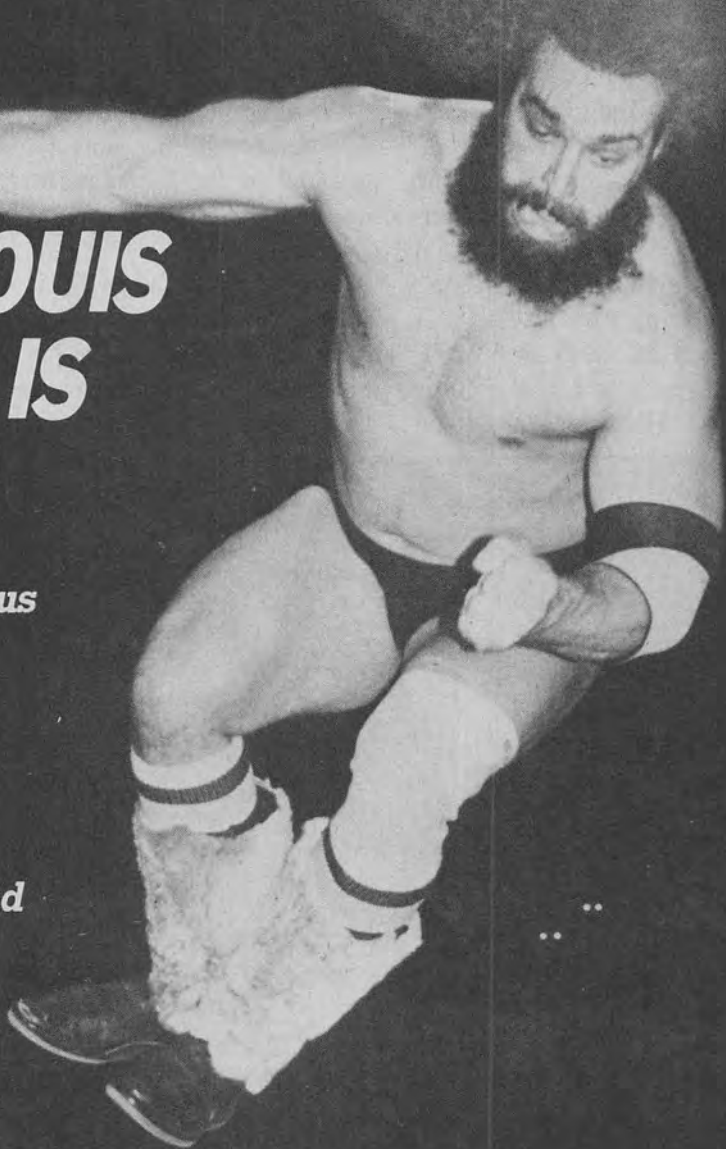
"As the aura surrounding these teams grows, the value of an eventual matchup increases. But it takes time for the anticipation to reach its peak. By wrestling against each other so early, they lost a chance to wrestle somewhere down the line when it would have meant big money, a major title, and a lot of press coverage. This could have

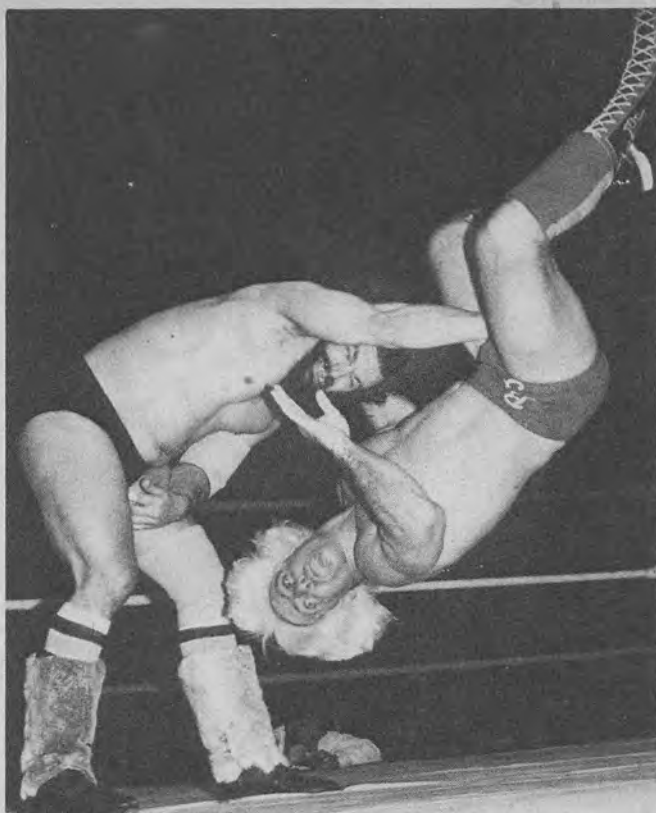
(Continued on page 50)

The Ric Flair-Bruiser Brody Brawl:

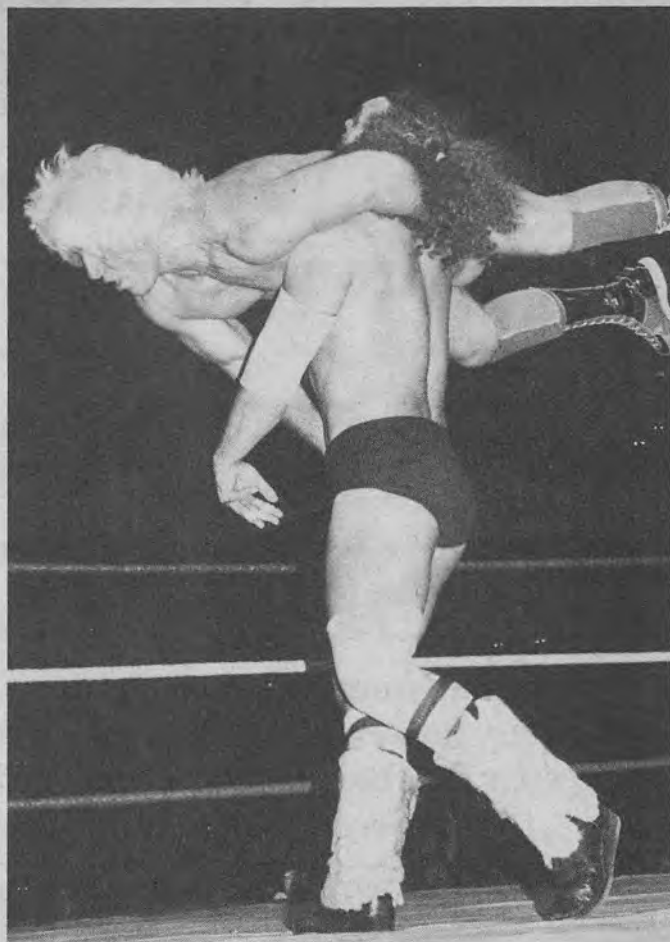
WHAT ST. LOUIS WRESTLING IS ALL ABOUT!

The city of St. Louis is famous throughout the world for presenting the very best in professional wrestling. The roots of tradition in this great American city run deep. A recent NWA title match between Ric Flair and challenger Bruiser Brody proves that the St. Louis tradition of excellence is alive and stronger than ever





Brody, the stronger of the two wrestlers, bodyslams Flair (above). Flair, the smarter of the two, grabs Brody's neck to prevent another slam (right). Brody grabs the referee's hand, indicating that he is not ready to submit to the champion's figure-four leglock (below).



THE TIP OF the flame in the torch of the Statue of Liberty in New York City reaches 302 feet into the sky.

The apex of the Washington Monument, deep in the heart of the nation's capital, scrapes the clouds at a height of 555 feet.

But at an incredible 630 feet above the ground, The Gateway Arch in St. Louis has entered our

nation's history books as the United States' tallest monument.

The Gateway Arch: "Gateway to the West." Known throughout the country and around the world, the arch helps to make St. Louis one of this nation's unique cities.

But St. Louis is known for much more than simply the arch. The city located between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers is rich in his-

torical significance.

Take sports, for example: The St. Louis Cardinals boast 27 Baseball Hall of Fame members, 13 league pennants, and nine world championships since 1900. There's a St. Louis Cardinals football team, a St. Louis Blues hockey team, a St. Louis Steamers soccer team . . .

. . . and a reputation for professional wrestling excellence that, in the minds of many, is second to none.

St. Louis is, in many ways, the nerve center of NWA wrestling. The NWA World title has changed hands in this great city 15 times, more than any other city on earth.

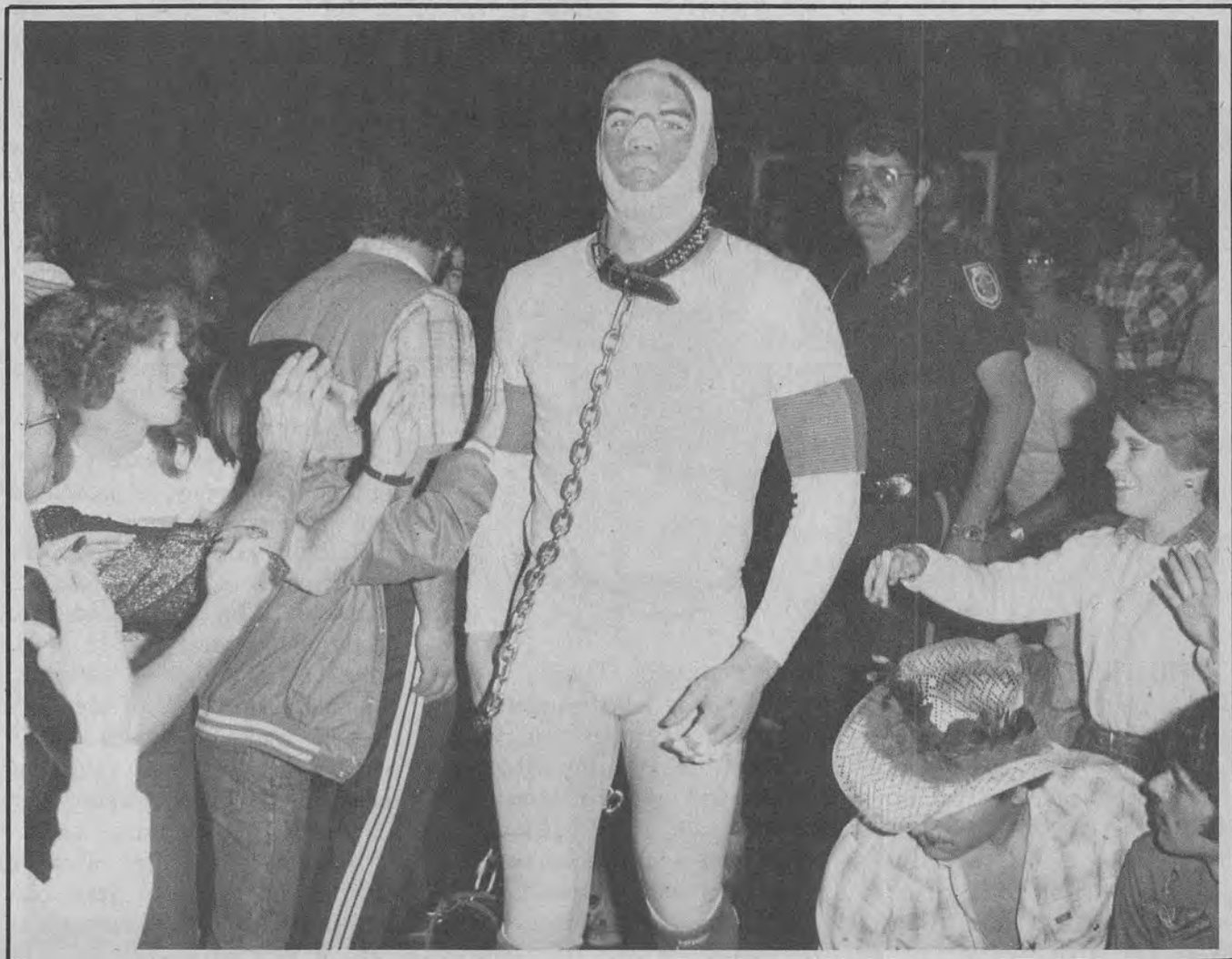
Sam Vallen knows of the city's wrestling traditions as well as anyone. He has been attending matches in St. Louis at least once a month for over 45 years.

"I went to my first wrestling match when I was 13 years old, back in 1937, and I remember it as clear as if it were yesterday," he

(Continued on page 54)

Will The Fans Ever See Barry Windham's Face Again? **DIRTY YELLOW DOG & HIS MASK OF SHAME**

Barry Windham had been beaten, bloodied, and bruised in the wrestling ring, but humiliation has taken a larger toll on the star than any injury he's ever experienced. As Dirty Yellow Dog, Windham hopes to repay Ron Bass for the shame he feels. The fans fear that if he fails, however, then they have lost Barry Windham for good



YOU DON'T HAVE to look very closely at Dirty Yellow Dog to know that the man behind the yellow mask is Barry Windham. His walk, voice, mannerisms, and ring style make it impossible for him to hide his identity.

If you do look closely, however, you'll notice something wrong, something different about this man. Looking out of the mask are dark, somber eyes. Those are not Windham's eyes.

Windham's eyes used to burn with intensity as he tightened a headlock on an opponent. They used to dance when he talked about a recent victory or his plans for the future. They used to shine when he joked around with friends in his dressing room.

The eyes that looked out of Dirty Yellow Dog's mask didn't burn, dance, or shine. They looked pensive, staring straight ahead into the hallway through the open door of his dressing room. He didn't move as I walked through that door and sat down near him. I asked him who he was waiting for.

"Waiting?" he asked, his stare not wavering. "You mean because I'm looking out the door? I'm not waiting for anyone. I'm just thinking."

The man behind the mask has only been able to think of one thing lately. In his mind, he could still see fans gasping in horror as he was degraded before them. He was battling for his friend, Dusty Rhodes, against Ron Bass. To the winner would go a saddle, a gift given to Bass by Rhodes' mother years ago when Dusty and Ron were childhood friends. Although Dusty could not in good conscience take the gift back himself, Barry was more than willing to do the favor for his friend. Windham won the match, but in the end it was Windham who was beaten, cruelly triple-teamed by Bass, One Man Gang, and James

Dillon.

Windham could still feel the leather saddle being strapped onto his back. He could hear Ron Bass laugh as he slapped Windham's sides like a horse. He could see One Man Gang and Dillon taunting him in front of the fans. Peering through the mask of blood covering his face, he could see the television cameras documenting the entire affair, and he could imagine millions of his fans nationwide watching him suffer the incredible humiliation of being saddled and ridden like an animal.



The fans are hoping Dirty Yellow Dog will remove his mask and face the world as Barry Windham again.

Recalling this event in one's mind could drive some to displays of extreme rage, but there was no anger left in Windham to fuel such actions. All that was left for the victim was the painful memory, and the hope that he would be able to avenge the humiliation and once again show his face.

In many ways, Dirty Yellow Dog isn't Barry Windham. Windham is prone to angry outbursts. He is an emotional wrestler. Dirty Yellow Dog would wrestle Hector Guerrero on this night in West Palm Beach, Florida. The match would

be devoid of brutality on his part. Dirty Yellow Dog wrestled a brilliant scientific match, negating Guerrero's newly adopted aggressive style with quickness, agility, and cool, calculated thought. There was no emotion shown in Dirty Yellow Dog's performance except for pride in his talent and his victory, evident only as his hand was raised in victory.

Pride is also what keeps Windham's face hidden behind a mask. Although he is ashamed of what happened to him, he is wrong in assuming his fans are ashamed of him as well. Windham's fans will cheer for Dirty Yellow Dog, but they would rather cheer for Windham. They hope that Windham will unmask once he exacts his revenge on Bass, but they worry that if Windham fails, he will never show his face to them again.

"He has nothing to be ashamed of," West Palm Beach fan Drew Fonda said. "He was a victim. What happened was not his fault. He was set up by Dillon. Barry is a great wrestler, but there was no way he could have been victorious in that kind of situation. There's no reason for him to feel the way he does, and I hope he knows that the fans feel that way. We aren't ashamed of him. We just want him back—without the mask."

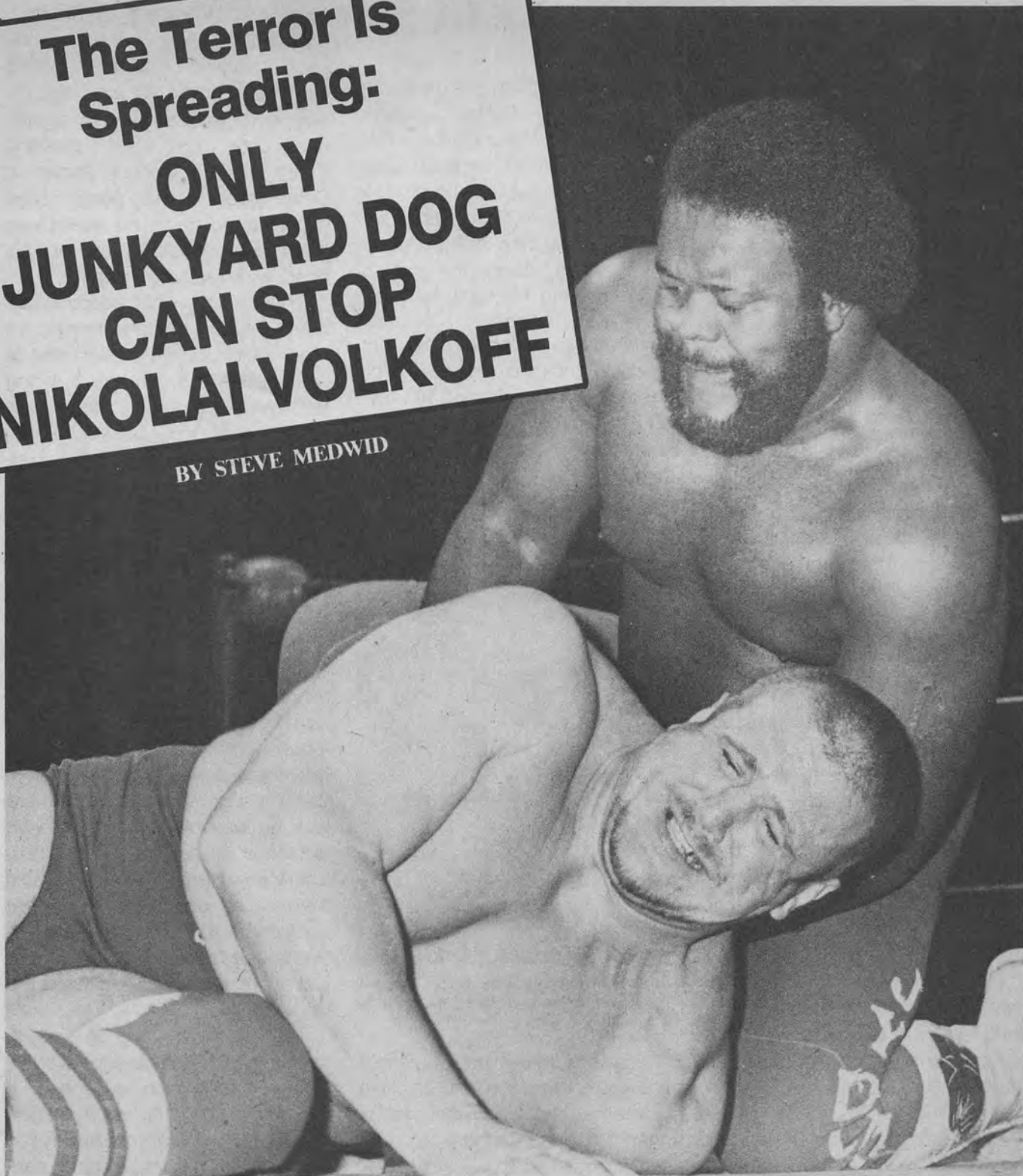
The fans will have to wait to see Windham's face again, but if Yellow Dog's plan succeeds, it will not be for long. He managed to trick NWA World champion Ric Flair into selling him an open contract to wrestle Bass, using the two things that influence the NWA World titlist most: money and a beautiful woman.

"I walked out of a hotel in Tampa, and this woman gets out of a limousine," Flair said. "She offered me \$5,000 for my contract to wrestle Bass. I said yes on instinct. I would have said yes to

(Continued on page 56)

The Terror Is Spreading: ONLY JUNKYARD DOG CAN STOP NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

BY STEVE MEDWID



THEIR GOAL IS the same, but the contrast in philosophies of the two men is unmistakable. Listening to Junkyard Dog and Nikolai Volkoff prepare themselves in their respective dressing rooms for their upcoming match for the North American championship, it becomes quite clear that there is far more at stake than just who would

be wearing the title belt when it is all over.

Junkyard Dog has more than his cherished belt on his mind. He has the integrity of the United States and its entire way of life that he must uphold against the man he calls a "Communist pig."

For the past few weeks, JYD has followed up his gym workouts by

throwing a tape of the film *The Right Stuff* into his video recorder. The uplifting film depicts the conception of the American space program and its race against the Soviets for superiority of outer space. The U.S. got off to a slow start in this race in the early '60s. There were failures and embarrassments. While the people of the world

With the constant threat of nuclear war hovering over the two most powerful nations in the world, the last thing that both the United States and the Soviet Union want is for two athletes to fuel the cold war. For that reason, there is concern over the feud developing in the Mid-South between Junkyard Dog and Nikolai Volkoff



From three separate positions, as pictured on this page, Nikolai Volkoff tries to squeeze the will to continue out of Junkyard Dog. Defending more than just the North American title, JYD would not submit.

watched the Russians putting men into orbit, they snickered as America's unmanned rockets exploded on the launching pads. Politicians blushed the color of the Soviet flag.

This nation was not built by quitters, however. It was molded by fearless leaders and hard-working individuals who weren't afraid to sweat and get their hands dirty. Quickly solving its initial problems, the U.S. left the Russians lost in space. Within 10 years, America put the first man on the moon. To this day, Russia still hasn't.

What impressed Junkyard Dog most about the astronauts was their death-defying courage. He could identify with this special breed who could remain composed in the face of danger—a quality appropriately tabbed "The Right Stuff." It makes him want to do something for his country. By defending the North American title against Volkoff, he is.

"Just thinking about the movie gets me pumped up," he said excitedly after loosening up for nearly 20 minutes. "I am an American and I'm not ashamed to admit it. In this country, you are free to accomplish anything you want. Communism, on the other hand, is

something that must be stopped. I will do my duty as an American citizen to defend our country against anyone who speaks out against it. That is why I must destroy Nikolai Volkoff."

In the adjoining dressing room, a 6'7", 345-pound man sits silently, reading. Nikolai Volkoff derives his strength from a book entitled *The Communist Manifesto*, which he refers to as the Bible of Communism. The text was written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and it is the words of these men he wishes to spread.

Although most people think of Volkoff as a mindless brute, there



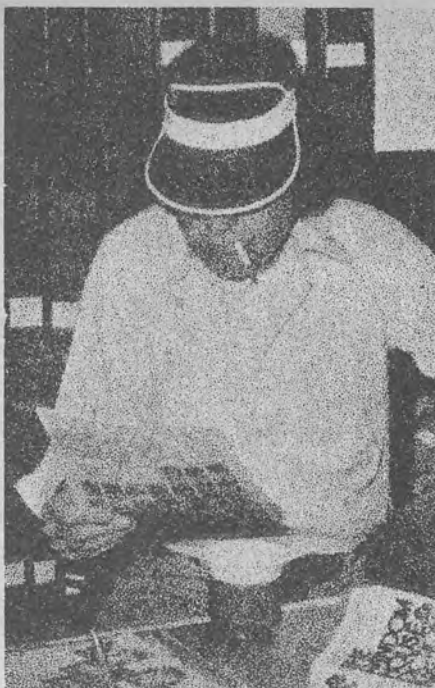
is a quiet side to this scholarly man. He studies the words of Marx and Engels religiously before each match. Like a preacher who is about to address his congregation, he works himself into a trancelike state when it comes time to read from the *Manifesto*.

"I want to read you a passage from this book," he bellows, shattering the tranquility of the room,

(Continued on page 58)



MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

OCTOBER 8, 1958

DON LEO JONATHAN VS. PAT O'CONNOR

TWO OUT OF three falls with the winner to meet NWA World champion Dick Hutton.

So go ahead and sneer. "Who cares?" you ask. But if you had been in Milwaukee as I was that cool October night, you would have seen one of those kinds of matches that stays with you like the memory of your first fistfight, or your first hangover.

For Don Leo Jonathan and Pat O'Connor, their respective first fistfights had come years earlier. These were two men experienced in the ways of hand-to-hand combat. They knew their way around the squared circle better than most men of the day. And when it was announced that these two leading contenders for the World title were going to meet, the wrestling world buzzed like a beehive hit with a baseball bat.

Don Leo Jonathan: 280 pounds of power and fury. He knew how to wrestle, and he had some strange scientific holds in his repertoire, but he preferred to over-



Don Leo Jonathan dominates Pat O'Connor with a hammerlock in their elimination match for a shot at the NWA World title.



O'Connor, still in the hammerlock, manages to get to his feet, but Jonathan brings him right back down (left). Don Leo sends O'Connor to the mat with his forearm (above) and reapplies the hammerlock (below).

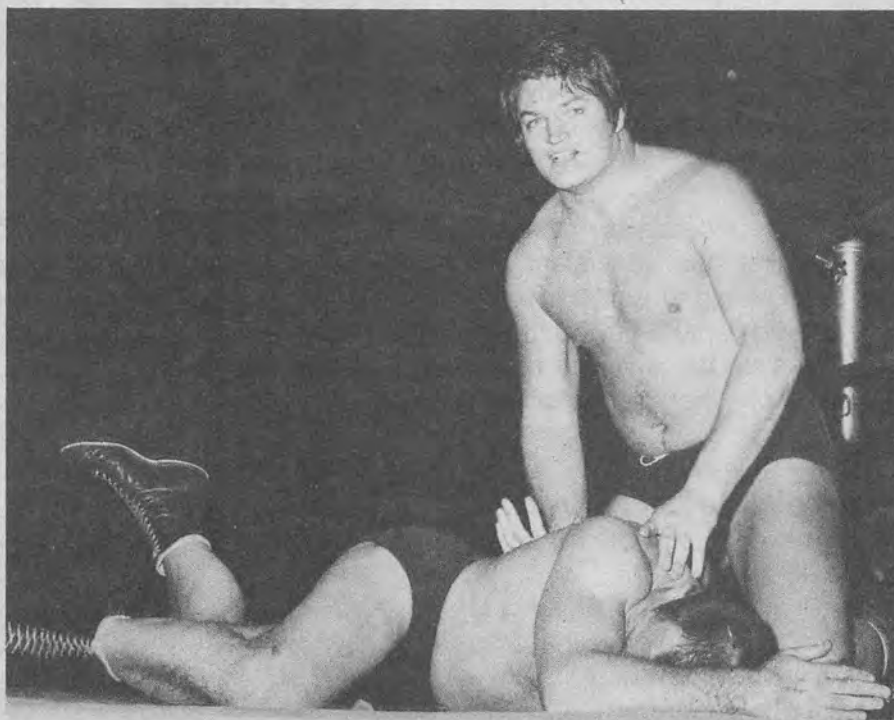
power his opponent with raw strength. You could have bet on him 99 times out of 100 to win a match, and you only would have lost once. Consistently excellent and considered at that time to be the Texas State champion, Don Leo was a man to be feared inside the squared circle as the most agile big man of his day.

Pat O'Connor: He was as skilled a scientific wrestler as Don Leo was overpowering. Recognized throughout the wrestling world as a master of intricate holds and maneuvers, O'Connor's style vastly contrasted that of Don Leo's.

Pat was giving away about 50 pounds to Don Leo, but his vast scientific knowledge of the sport more than made up the difference. The smart money was betting on O'Connor, but sometimes the smart money isn't so smart.

In the third and deciding fall, Don Leo delivered an elbowsmash that buckled O'Connor's legs and sent him slumping to the canvas. He moved in for the kill like a hawk swooping down on an injured rabbit.

Don Leo threw himself on top of O'Connor and locked him up in the



famous Mormon sickle. In the first two falls, Don Leo's strategy had been to continually hold O'Connor in his punishing hammerlock, so this alteration of tactics came as a complete surprise to O'Connor.

The element of surprise. The underestimation of the opponent. (Did O'Connor really believe Don Leo would go after him with the Mormon sickle? I doubted it then, and I

doubt it now.) We've seen these two factors claim opponents time and time again.

Don Leo won the opportunity to wrestle Dick Hutton, but ironically it would be Pat O'Connor who would unseat the NWA champion on January 9, 1959.

The smart money had the right man . . . only it had him just a little too soon. □

FIND IT wholly admirable that the editors of one of the most prestigious wrestling publications in the world, *The Wrestler*, would request a firsthand analysis of one of the most important events in wrestling: the tournament to crown a new pair of world tag team champions. This demonstrates sheer excellence on the part of the editorial staff of this magazine.

After all, I can't think of a better man to offer the readers of this magazine a rare glimpse into the world of athletic success than myself, the man who engineered one of the greatest professional wrestling coups in history. I will tell you how I guided Cowboy Bob Orton and Don Kernodle to the world tag team title.

We're talking about more than a feud here, more than a grudge match, more than a win to gain bragging rights or to prove a point. We're talking about the big one: the NWA World tag team title.

Now, to understand my strategy, you first must understand the fact that Orton and Kernodle were only able to capture the world title predicated on the eventual reality of one of the following two potentialities:

(1) Then-champions Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood would have to provide my team with a title shot.

(2) Then-champions Steamboat and Youngblood would have to be eliminated from the Mid-Atlantic wrestling picture.

The latter avenue appeared to me to be the most attractive. And I do not hesitate to say that I was successful in driving Rick Steamboat out of wrestling.

Scoff if you will, but it was my own managerial genius that sent Steamboat scurrying out of the professional ranks. He says he wanted to devote his full time to running his health club? Bull! It was running fine before.

Gary Hart's Greatest Managerial Feat:

Cowboy Bob Orton and Don Kernodle surprised a lot of people when they won the elimination tournament to fill the vacant NWA tag team championship. One man who wasn't surprised was Gary Hart, because the manager had used all his brilliance to devise the perfect winning strategy. Hart details that strategy in this exclusive story

By Gary Hart

"HOW I GUIDED ORTON TO THE WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE"



Hart's strategy included Kernodle and Orton's use of illegal, yet effective, teamwork throughout the tournament. Kernodle airplane spins Dory Funk Jr. within punching range of Orton in their corner.



ON AND KERNODLE IG TEAM TITLE!"



Kernodle rushes to the aid of Orton, who is being held in a headlock by Funk. Having faced Hart's team of Ernie Ladd and Ivan Koloff in a grueling match earlier in the tournament, Funk and Jimmy Valiant were at an extreme disadvantage in the final round.

He's scared. Plain and simple. Scared of the stable of wrestlers I command. Scared of men like Orton and Kernodle. Scared of men like The Great Kabuki and the Magic Dragon. Scared of men like Ernie Ladd and Ivan Koloff. And scared of who might next come under my managerial auspices.

So with Steamboat out of the way, a tournament was mandated.

Precisely 10 tag teams from across the nation converged upon Charlotte, North Carolina, to compete for the highest honor any tag team could attain.

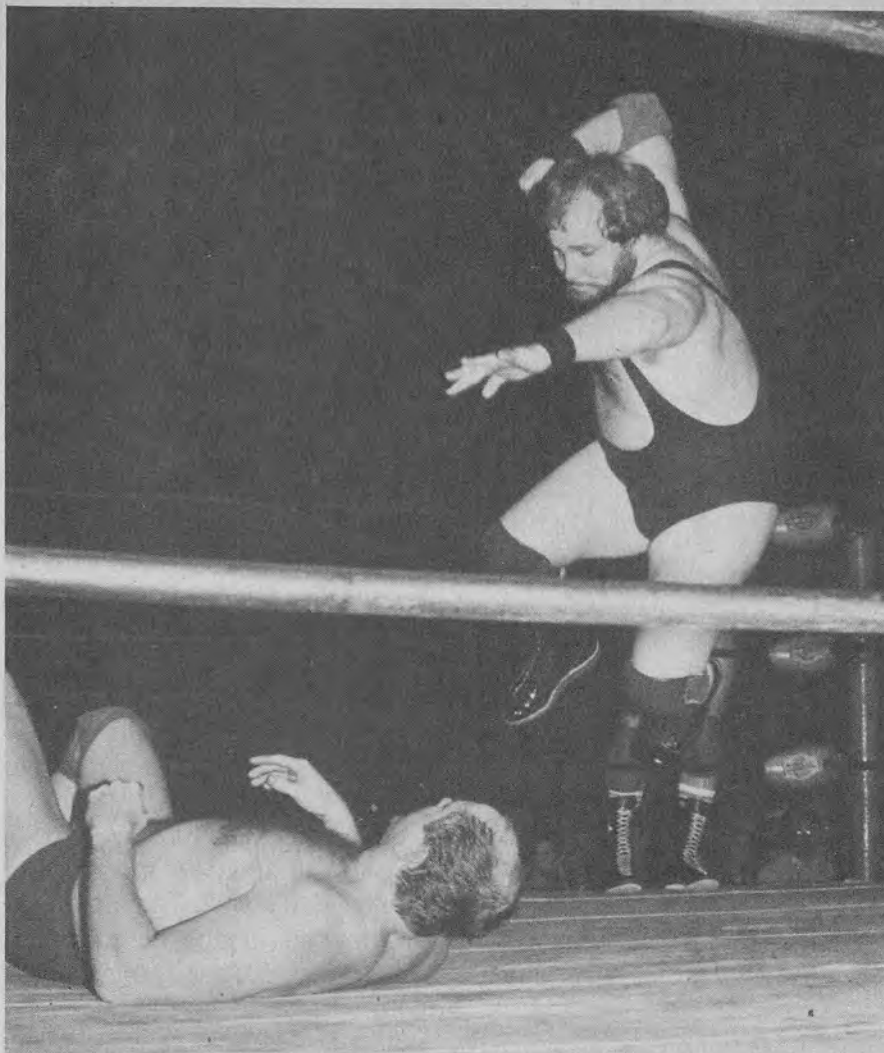
Certain tag teams I didn't bother to worry about: Rufus R. Jones and Bubba Smith, for example. Hardly world-class tag team material.

Jay and Mark Youngblood—well, we all know what happened to Jay, don't we? The poor boy was injured, unable to compete. Tough luck, Mark. Maybe next time.

Angelo Mosca and Angelo Mosca Jr.—clearly the son is the weak link in this team. I knew that inexperience would cost them their match, and it did.

I must admit at this point, however, that there were two teams I had to give some thought to: Wahoo McDaniel and Buzz Sawyer and The Road Warriors. I had devised strategies for Orton and Kernodle to battle each team, and I'm confident that my strategies would have worked. I won't tell you what those particular strategies were, but I will tell you that I was happy not to have to use them—McDaniel and Sawyer battled The Road Warriors to a double-disqualification and were both eliminated from the tournament.

Now some fans might say, "But Gary, you had two teams in the tournament. What about Ernie Ladd and Ivan Koloff?" Well, Ladd and Koloff may someday succeed as a tag team, but their



Kernodle leaves his feet and will drive his fist into Funk's face as he descends to the mat (above). Orton keeps Funk from retreating to his corner as Kernodle pounds his shoulder (below). Orton slams Valiant in the back, sending the "Boogie Woogie Man's" hair flying across his face (top right).



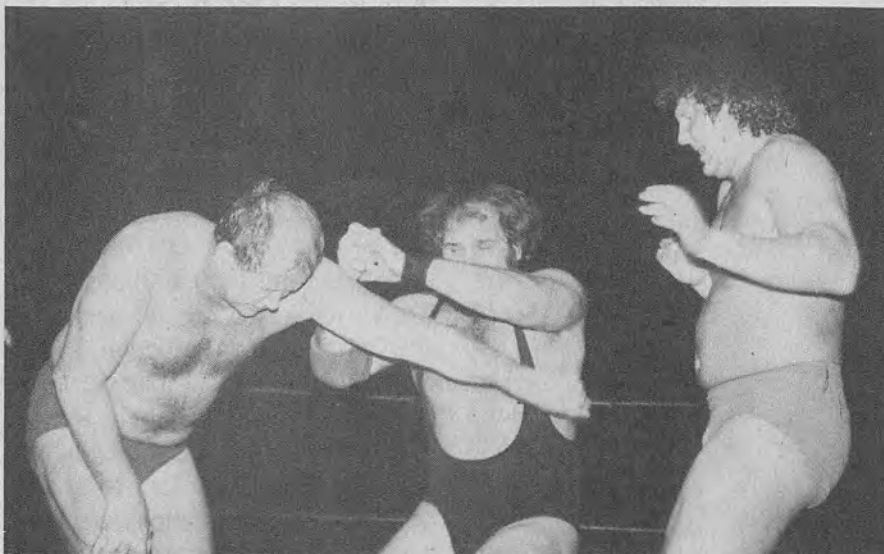
had been considerably weakened.

Who better to weaken a team like Valiant and Dory than Koloff and Ladd? Of course, I must give a tip of my hat to Paul Jones and his Assassins—they also did a splendid job of weakening Valiant and Dory.

So you see, when Valiant and Funk stepped into the ring to face Orton and Kernodle in the final round, they were already beaten. The fact that Orton and Kernodle would wear the belts was a foregone conclusion, thanks to my ingenious foresight, strategic planning, and the mental preparation of my men.

You see, there is a psychological factor in wrestling that is often overlooked. Orton and Kernodle went into that tournament with supremely positive attitudes, something for which I take direct credit. Their attitude provided them with an immediate edge, an edge that helped them win.

The winning edge. Orton and Kernodle have it. And with my help, they will continue to hold on to it, just as they will continue to hold on to the world tag team belts. □



destiny lies in singles competition. So why did I enter them in the tournament?

Simply stated, Ladd and Koloff were running interference for Orton and Kernodle. Oddsmakers

were betting that Jimmy Valiant and Dory Funk Jr. would make it to the final round, and I wanted to be sure that if Orton and Kernodle were in the final round as well, they would be facing a team that

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Closeup on St. Louis: From time to time, "Ratings Analysis" will present a closeup look at an area of the country not included on our ratings pages. This issue we look at the St. Louis area, heart of the NWA territory for decades. In these ratings, the Missouri State champion is ranked number one.



Harley Race



David Von Erich

ST. LOUIS

- 1—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 4—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Santa Fe, NM
- 5—**DUSTY RHODES-**
302, Austin, TX
- 6—**LUKE GRAHAM**
268, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**DORY FUNK JR.**
244, Amarillo, TX
- 8—**CRUSHER BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
- 10—**BULLDOG BOB BROWN**
252, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Regarding tag teams: Following a lengthy meeting of the editorial board of this magazine, it has been decided that three-man tag teams will no longer be included in the tag team ratings category. The reason? The theory behind ratings is to provide a listing of relative merit and a comparison of relative skills. Since there have generally been only one or two three-man tag teams ranked in the tag team ratings in the past, a comparison of three-man

teams against conventional tag teams becomes meaningless.

For period ending: Following last month's explanation of why our ratings do not include the most recent title changes you may be aware of (due to the time it takes to print and distribute this magazine), we've decided to add a date-line each month to the ratings themselves. You will notice that on the top of page 45 there is a designation that reads, "For period ending January 31, 1984." This means, quite simply, that the ratings have taken into account all news, information, and title changes up to and including that particular date. (This includes the St. Louis ratings on this page.) So if the NWA World title changes hands on February 1, you won't see that change reflected in the ratings until the next issue.

Oops! And a special thanks to all the fans who wrote us to point out that Ric Flair is *not* from Kansas City, Missouri, as noted in the NWA category last month. The listing in the Top 10 category, however, did provide Flair's proper home: Minneapolis, Minnesota. We only hope the U.S. Postal Service didn't reroute all his mail!



Ric Flair

The address for mail: We look forward to reading your comments about our ratings system and "Ratings Analysis." Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. □

OFF WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Dusty Rhodes



Nick Bockwinkel

TOP10

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 6—HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA |
| 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 7—CARLOS COLON
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico |
| 3—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO | 8—DAVID VON ERICH
247, Denton, TX |
| 4—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 9—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL |
| 5—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA | 10—DINO BRAVO
248, Montreal, Quebec |

TAG TEAMS

- 1—COWBOY BOB ORTON & DON KERNODLE
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 481 pounds
- 2—KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 730 pounds
- 3—BRETT SAWYER & BUZZ SAWYER
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 482 pounds
- 4—MIKE ROTONDO & MIKE DAVIS
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 477 pounds
- 5—SUPER DESTROYERS I & II
World Class American tag team champions
Combined weight: 542 pounds
- 6—MR. WRESTLING II & MAGNUM T.A.
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 477 pounds
- 7—ROCKY JOHNSON & TONY ATLAS
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 491 pounds
- 8—ELIJAH AKEEM & KAREEM MUHAMMAD
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 578 pounds
- 9—TONY PARISI & GINO BRITO
Canadian International tag team champions
Combined weight: 493 pounds
- 10—THE MASKED MEDICS
World Wrestling Council North American champions
Combined weight: 477 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

MOST POPULAR

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
- 3—BUZZ SAWYER
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 4—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands
- 5—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA
- 6—HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA
- 7—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX
- 8—MIKE ROTONDO
245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 10—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO

MOST HATED

- 1—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
- 2—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
345, Siberia, Russia
- 3—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX
- 4—HACKSAW REED
249, Kansas City, MO
- 5—KING KONG BUNDY
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 6—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 7—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR
- 8—THE IRON SHEIK
262, Teheran, Iran
- 9—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL

NWA

- World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 1—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL
 - 2—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
 - 3—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
 - 4—KENDO NAGASAKI
248, Singapore
 - 5—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX
 - 6—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
 - 7—CARLOS COLON
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
 - 8—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England
 - 9—DAVID VON ERICH
247, Denton, TX
 - 10—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL

AWA

- World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 1—MAD DOG VACHON
225, Algeria
 - 2—BLACKJACK LANZA
260, Laredo, TX
 - 3—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
 - 4—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan
 - 5—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR
 - 6—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
310, Sweetwater, TX
 - 7—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Minneapolis, MN
 - 8—BARON VON RASCHKE
271, Germany
 - 9—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA
 - 10—JESSE VENTURA
270, Muscle Beach, CA

CIAL G RATINGS

For period ending January 31, 1984

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:

HULK HOGAN

320, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 3—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
- 4—**THE IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
- 5—**BOB BACKLUND**
242, Princeton, MN
- 6—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 7—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**
282, Atlanta, GA
- 8—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Paris Island, SC
- 9—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 10—**IVAN PUTSKI**
242, Krakow, Poland

GEORGIA

- 1—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 2—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 3—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 4—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 5—**THE SPOILER**
266, parts unknown
- 6—**BRETT SAWYER**
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 7—**PEZ WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
- 8—**KING KONG BUNDY**
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 9—**LES THORNTON**
233, Manchester, England
- 10—**TOMMY ROGERS**
222, St. Petersburg, FL

FLORIDA

- 1—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, TX
- 2—**KENDO NAGASAKI**
248, Singapore
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**MIKE ROTONDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 5—**DIRTY YELLOW DOG**
230, parts unknown
- 6—**ONE MAN GANG**
402, Chicago, IL
- 7—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 8—**MIKE GRAHAM**
232, Tampa, FL
- 9—**MIKE DAVIS**
232, Atlanta, GA
- 10—**HECTOR GUERRERO**
243, Mexico

MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 2—**ANGELO MOSCA JR.**
234, Caledon, Ontario
- 3—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 4—**DORY FUNK JR.**
244, Amarillo, TX
- 5—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
- 6—**RUFUS R. JONES**
287, Boston, MA
- 7—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 8—**ANGELO MOSCA**
309, Caledon, Ontario
- 9—**MARK YOUNGBLOOD**
230, Amarillo, TX
- 10—**ERNE LADD**
354, Houston, TX

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford on Avon, England
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
254, Denton, TX
- 4—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX
- 6—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
- 7—**SUPER DESTROYER I**
271, parts unknown
- 8—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
- 9—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
240, Lake Dallas, TX
- 10—**SUPER DESTROYER II**
271, parts unknown

MID-SOUTH

- 1—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 2—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**
345, Siberia, Russia
- 3—**KRUSHER DARSOW**
303, Thief River Falls, MN
- 4—**HACKSAW REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA
- 6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
- 8—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
234, Tulsa, OK
- 9—**TERRY TAYLOR**
219, Tampa, FL
- 10—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda

MID-SOUTHERN

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As the carnage throughout wrestling continues, *PWI* asks why the NWA is afraid to stop **TED DiBIASE**



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All this and much more . . . in the May 1984 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 18)

wrestler and, of course, so am I."

Q: "Does Mike Jackson think that it's fair that he has to wrestle men who are so much bigger than him?": Roberta Hoppl, Dayton, OH

A: "It's absolutely fair, Roberta," Jackson said. "I sign for the matches and I know what I'm getting into from the start. These guys might be bigger than me, but my quickness cuts into their advantage. Most of the men in this sport are larger than I am. If I'm going to succeed, I'm going to have to take on opponents who are bigger than me."

Q: "Does Ken Patera miss singles wrestling, or is he happy tag teaming with Crusher Blackwell



Ken Patera and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie assist the injured Crusher Blackwell. Patera is satisfied wrestling in tag team matches.

and working for Sheik Al-Kaissie?": Georgianne Fredericks, Hollywood, CA

A: Patera answered: "When you're collecting the kind of paychecks I am, Georgianne, you don't miss anything. I'm being very well compensated for defending the AWA tag team title with Blackwell, and I enjoy

(Continued on page 48)

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 47)

the work. I also get to wrestle in singles matches when I have time. I have a long career ahead of me for other things."

Q: "My question is for Rick Martel. Rick, I think a tag team made up of you and Mike Rotondo would be great. Do you have any plans to come down to Florida and make this dream come true for me?"
Tammy Durang, Sarasota, FL

A: "I haven't seen Mike in a long time," Martel said. "It seems like we're always just missing each other. I've read some great things about him lately, however, and people tell me that he's really developed into a fine wrestler in the last few months. I think it would be great to come down to Florida and team with Mike. It would certainly be a lot warmer down there than it is in Montreal, where I'm wrestling

now, but I have commitments up here in Canada that I have to fulfill."

Q: "Hulk Hogan was chased to the WWF by David Shultz. Now that Shultz has followed him, does 'Dr. D' plan to finish off the Not-So-Incredible Hulk?":
Paul Fischer, North Attleboro, MA

A: "Aha, an intelligent fan in the WWF," Shultz responded. "I was afraid that I wasn't gonna be able to find one. Listen, Paul, Hogan is nothing. I'm gonna roll over him just like I did in the AWA. With Roddy Piper in my corner, there's no way Hogan can survive. We'll take him apart in no time."

Q: "I want to ask manager Jim Cornette what he plans for his tag team of Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton, The Midnight Ex-



The feud between Hulk Hogan and David Shultz, which started in the AWA, is almost certain to resume in the WWF.



Manager Jim Cornette sees a bright future for the team of Dennis Condrey (left) and Bobby Eaton.

press?": Todd York, Houston A: "Many plans, many many plans too numerous to explain in this space," Cornette said. "I will tell you this, however. The Midnight Express, under the guidance of the one and only Jim Cornette, is headed for greatness. The three of us will control tag team wrestling by the end of 1984." ☐

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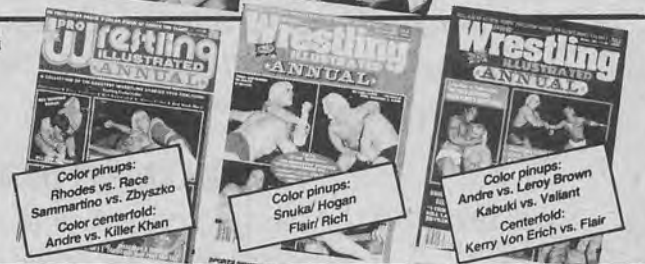
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The Best Keeps Getting Better!



A simultaneous dropkick by Keirn and Lane lifts Animal off the mat (above). A double-DQ is ruled as Lane battles Hawk (below) and Keirn battles Animal (out of picture).



on," Lane said, "just like we've taken all of Hart's men on. We have something to prove to Hart. He's not going to be able to run us out of wrestling. Bruised bodies heal a lot faster than bruised pride."

"We had something to prove to ourselves, too," Keirn added. "The Road Warriors are a strong team. We've seen them steamroll some good tag team combinations. I don't think we performed all that badly against them. No, I take that back. We did well, very well. They were almost twice the size of us. We have nothing to be ashamed of. Heck, we almost beat them. We showed we could be as aggressive as they are."

In testing each others' strengths, the Warriors found Keirn and Lane

surprisingly powerful. The Fabulous Ones, in turn, discovered that Animal and Hawk are a quick team that implements many of the same ring strategies they use themselves.

The aggressive nature of the match was most surprising. As the home team, The Fabulous Ones showed their fans a different side of their talent. "Sometimes, a supposed athletic contest turns into a struggle for survival," Lane said. "Tonight, the fans saw the 'dark side' of the Fab Ones. We don't try to hide it from them. We just don't use it until it's absolutely necessary. The idea is to win the match. But we're not going to put our careers in jeopardy and not fight back. That would be foolish. We worked too hard to get this far for that to happen."

At the end, neither team deemed disappointed with the result. Their battle had raged from ring center to the ropes, and beyond to the arena floor. The four combatants battled furiously outside the ring, without regard for the rules, until the referee counted both teams out.

"The result was good for both teams," Albano conceded. "Had there been a decisive winner, there would be little interest in a rematch. I only hope that they take the Captain's advice and do the logical thing by not wrestling again until the time is right."

But these two teams are primed for war. And when it comes to war, logic is rarely a factor. □



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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 20)

was threatened, however, by a knee injury suffered in training camp. "I was disappointed," he said. "I've always been really active. It hurt to have to watch my teammates play without me."

Placed on injured reserve by the Generals, Williams returned to Norman, Oklahoma, to visit college friends.

While in the weight room on campus one day, Williams met one of his childhood idols, wrestler-turned-promoter Cowboy Bill Watts. "I always used to read about him in wrestling magazines," Williams said. "In fact, when my parents came with me to visit the university while I was still in high school, we stopped in Oklahoma City to watch him wrestle."

"We talked about a lot of things during that first meeting," Watts said. "I told him I knew a man who could get his knee back in shape quick, and that when he was back in shape, I wanted him to talk to him about becoming a pro wrestler."

Watts referred Williams to a physical therapist who had worked successfully in rehabilitating similar injuries. Williams underwent a vigorous exercise program that utilized light weights in conjunction with whirlpool therapy and other exercises. Williams was able to rejoin the Generals for the latter part of the season, but he couldn't get wrestling out of his mind.

The second USFL season will have to do without "Dr. Death," as he has decided to make professional wrestling his only career. "I had to give it a shot, so I asked Bill to get me a couple of matches," he said. "It was a great feeling to be out there one on one with another guy instead of looking at a line of players with mountains of padding on."

Williams defeated The Turk in his initial pro contest in Shreveport,



Williams crushes Jim Neidhart in his tremendously powerful arms. Dr. Death began his wrestling career after suffering a knee injury playing football. He considers the injury the best thing that ever happened to him.

Louisiana, and it didn't take long before he gained the respect of the fans in the Mid-South region.

While climbing the Mid-South ratings ladder, Williams is also completing his degree in Physical Education at Oklahoma, attending classes with Watts' son, Joel.

"It's important to me to get my degree," Williams said. "I worked for three years in college, juggling classes and studying with workouts and practice sessions. I always planned to finish. One of the reasons I chose the USFL over the National Football League was because they play in the spring and summer. I figured I could go to school in the fall. Now, I can go to school and train during the day, and wrestle at night. I've got the best of all worlds."

Dr. Death plans to stay around awhile, and that's a morbid thought for many professional wrestlers. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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FLAIR VS. BRODY

(Continued from page 33)

said. "It was Lou Thesz wrestling NWA World champion Everett Marshall. Thesz won his first NWA title that night. And I've seen all of Thesz's St. Louis title changes in person. You know, four of his six NWA title wins were right here in St. Louis."

Sam fancies himself somewhat of a St. Louis wrestling historian. He was in the Kiel Auditorium recently for a wrestling card that featured an NWA title match between Ric Flair and challenger Bruiser Brody, a match that Sam termed "classic."



The fact that Brody had thrown Flair over the top rope (above) nullified his pinfall and his apparent title victory (right). The referee was unconscious when the infraction was committed.

"Boy, this is what St. Louis wrestling is all about," Sam said. "Action, excitement, two of the very best wrestlers in the world battling for the greatest wrestling accolade in the world—the NWA World title. Damned if Brody didn't give it his all tonight. If you ask me, he should have that belt around his waist right now!"

Indeed, Brody more than "gave it his all." As far as most fans at the sold-out Kiel Auditorium were concerned, he had actually won the NWA title.

Brody took the early advantage in the match, capturing Flair in an

excruciatingly painful headlock followed by an armbar, a double wristlock, another armbar, and a powerslam that violently shook the ring.

Brody moved in with a bearhug that had Flair gasping for breath, and then moved to an aerial attack after he deposited the champion on the canvas with another thundering bodyslam.

In what some ringside observers termed a desperation move, Flair catapulted Brody through the ropes and out of the ring. The desperation move was in actuality a wise move—it's a lot easier to prevent Brody from reentering the ring than to battle him one on one, and the brief respite allowed Flair to regain a great deal of his wind and strength.

Once Brody came back into the ring, both men unleashed every weapon in their respective arsenals of moves and maneuvers. Flair went to the top rope for a flying bodypress (the same move that helped him capture the NWA title from Harley Race inside the steel cage on Thanksgiving), but Brody countered by turning Flair's effort



into a powerslam.

Flair clamped on the figure-four leglock, but Brody was able to reverse the hold. With Flair weak, Brody went to the air several times, delivering stunning kneedrops and elbowsmales.

In the course of the action, the referee was knocked out of the ring onto the concrete floor. A second referee rushed out of the dressing room area to check on his condition while Flair and Brody continued to wage full-scale war in the ring.

The first referee was just beginning to regain consciousness as he staggered back into the ring. At that point, Brody had slammed Flair, kneedropped him, and held his shoulders to the mat for the three-count. The crowd went wild, cheering in admiration of a superb match won by the awesome Bruiser Brody!

Brody held the NWA belt high in the air, and everyone believed that they had just witnessed the city's 16th NWA title change.

But it was not to be. The second referee ran into the ring to tell the first referee what he had missed: Brody had sent Flair flying over the top rope while the referee was groggy, a move warranting instant disqualification in St. Louis. Flair was still world champion.

A shower of beer, beer cups, candy wrappers, crumpled programs, and wads of random paper continued unabated for nearly 15 minutes. Ringside photographers and fans scrambled for cover. Thousands of fans obviously felt that Brody had been cheated out of the title that should rightfully be his.

And Sam Vallen stood in the midst of the near-riot and smiled.

"Yep, a hell of a match," Sam said. "Brody gave it his all, but he made that one fatal mistake."

Sam took a puff of his cigar. "This was it tonight," he said with an authoritative air of finality, "St. Louis wrestling at its best. I love it."

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DIRTY YELLOW DOG

(Continued from page 35)



Windham's attention doesn't seem to be on his matches these days. Even scoring a pinfall (above), his mind seems to be elsewhere. Black Bart, Ron Bass, and One Man Gang are still making Barry's life miserable (below).

anything she said. She handed over the cash, and I opened my briefcase and gave her the contract. It wasn't until the car drove away that I saw Windham in that mask waving the contract at me out of the window. I'd been had."

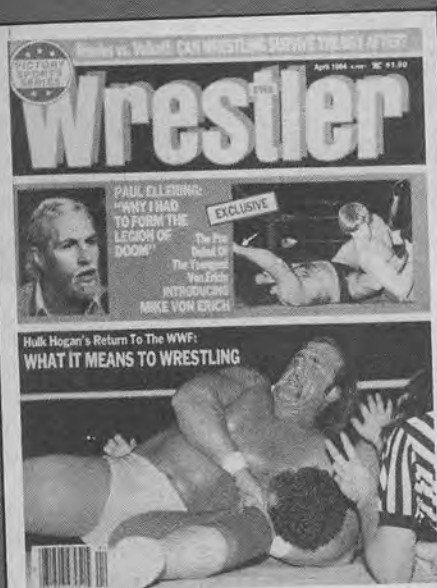
The terms of the match were dictated by Dirty Yellow Dog. The saddle that was strapped to Windham's back will be hung over the ring, with a ladder set up directly below it. The victor will be the man who can climb the ladder and take the saddle.

"When I feel I've evened the score," Yellow Dog said, "then I'll take off this mask, but not until then. The plan has been set into motion. First I had to get Bass in the ring on my terms. I managed



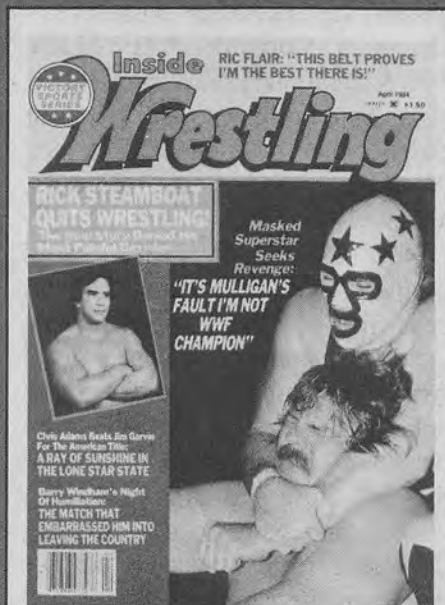
to do that. The next step is getting in the ring and doing it. And I will do it. I have to; I have no choice."

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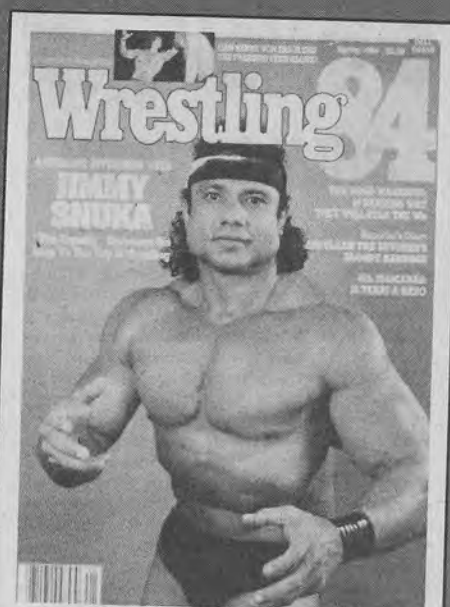
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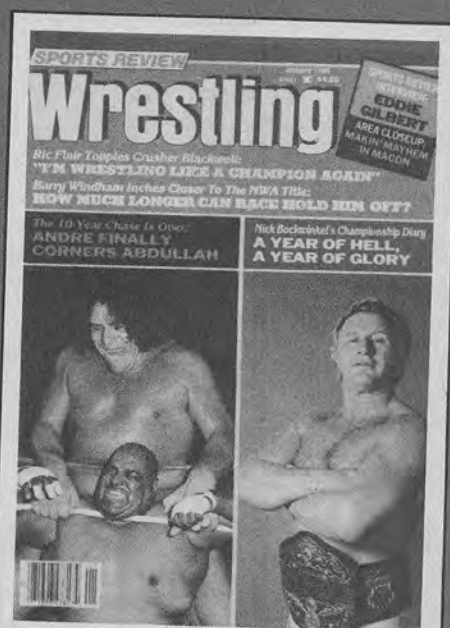
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JUNKYARD DOG

(Continued from page 37)

"and it is directed at that idiot Junkyard Dog and all his capitalistic fans. The Communists never conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletarians [industrial working class] have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. 'Working men of all countries, unite.'

"Do you see that word *chains*?" Volkoff says, lifting his eyes from the book. "That chain Dog wears around his neck is a symbol of capitalism and it is his link to all the other pigs who support him. I have already removed one of those links. I have convinced his best friend, Krusher Darsow, to come under my tutelage and learn the wisdom of Marx and Engels. When I finish proving my superiority to this dog inside the ring, he too will see the ways of these great individuals. And through him, he will unite his fans to support Communism. I must go now, it is time for me to destroy capitalism."

Houston, Texas, is as patriotic a city as you can find in the United States. The intensity of the fans filling the Sam Houston Coliseum can be felt as both warriors enter the ring. Suddenly, it feels like the 1980 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid with the U.S. and Russian hockey teams about to face off. The building rocks to the chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A." Volkoff is unbothered by the fact that an entire arena is against him: Revolutionaries are comfortable with the role of underdog.

A stunned crowd watches in disbelief as Volkoff is handed the North American belt after pinning JYD. Unknown to the referee at



Only his powerful neck muscles would keep Volkoff from being pinned (above). Volkoff pins JYD (bottom), but it was later learned that the Russian had illegally placed his left foot against the ropes for leverage.

the time but later revealed by the films of the match, the Russian had used the ropes for leverage to gain the pin. After viewing the films, the Mid-South wrestling commission overturned the verdict and gave the belt back to Junkyard Dog.



Though Junkyard Dog is still champion, he realizes that this is just the beginning of his war against Volkoff. Now he knows that the Russian is not above using any dirty tricks to get what he wants. He is not worried, however. He puts a tape of his favorite movie in his VCR and realizes that to overcome the Russians it takes patience, intelligence, and, of course, The Right Stuff. □

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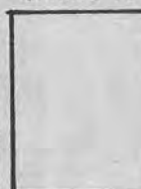
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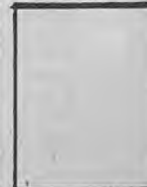
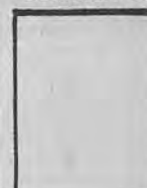
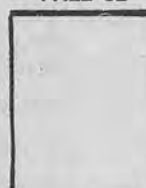
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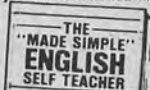
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they returned to the ring, they brought chairs with them. Buzz managed to avoid the Warriors' attack. He climbed the to the top



Buzz Sawyer is about to lift a bloody Paul Ellering for a spinecrusher on the arena floor, while the four other combatants battle inside the ring.

turnbuckle and cannonballed Ellering for the victory.

In other bouts, Ted DiBiase defeated Pistol Pez Whatley . . . Bob Armstrong defeated Jake Roberts . . . King Kong Bundy defeated Ron Garvin . . . Brad Armstrong drew with Tommy Rogers.

Memphis, Tennessee, (Correspondent: Chuck Morris): The feature attraction on the Memphis Coliseum's "Night of Champions" was a grudge battle between AWA Mid-Southern champion Jerry Lawler and Killer Karl Krupp.

Lawler attempted to apply his wrestling knowledge to this match, but he had to use his aggressiveness to ward off Krupp's illegal maneuvers. Krupp dragged Lawler outside the ring, but Lawler gained the up-



Jerry Lawler grabs Killer Krupp by the chin and slams his right fist into the German's exposed face.

per hand and brought Krupp back to the ring.

Lawler climbed the ring ropes and was poised to deliver his patented fistdrop when Krupp's manager, Jimmy Hart, entered the ring. Lawler successfully delivered the fistdrop but was attacked by Hart immediately afterward. Krupp was disqualified and Lawler held on to his championship.

In other bouts, The Fabulous Ones defeated The Moondogs . . . Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express . . . The Bruise Brothers drew with The A-Team . . . Austin Idol defeated Sabu . . . Randy Savage defeated Dutch Mantel . . . King Konga defeated Stagger Lee . . . Elijah Akeem and Kareem Muhammad beat Art Crews and Jerry Grey . . . Mr. Ebony defeated Terry Gibbs.

Staten Island, New York, (Correspondent: Eric King): The fans began to chant "wimp" as Iron Mike Sharpe climbed into the ring. Sharpe, frustrated by the fans' abuse, walked back to the locker room but then returned to the ring for his match with Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka.

Snuka controlled the match from the outset. Sharpe could not mount an offense. At one point, Sharpe threw Snuka headfirst into the turnbuckle, but the move had no effect on The Superfly.

Sharpe fell victim to a vicious karate thrust delivered by Snuka from the ropes. From there, Snuka kneedropped his opponent and then climbed to the top turnbuckle. Sharpe, still groggy from the punishment he had absorbed, began to stand up with his back to Snuka. From behind, Snuka leaped upon Sharpe for the victory.

In other bouts, Paul Orndorff defeated Chief Jay Strongbow . . . S.D. Jones drew with Tiger Chung Lee . . . Invader II and Swede Hanson defeated Rene Goulet and Tony Colon. ☐

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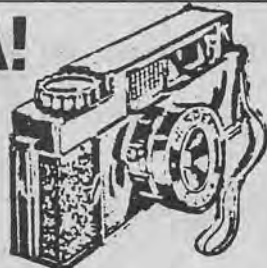
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 10)



Harley Race announces on KDNL in St. Louis his intention of going after an eighth NWA World title.

mittee determined Hogan to be the new number one contender, and the Sheik-Hogan match was quickly sanctioned.

Hogan's first Madison Square Garden title defense is slated to be not a rematch against the Sheik (a fact about which Sheik's manager, **Ayatollah Fred Blassie**, is extremely upset), but against "**Mr. Wonderful**" **Paul Orndorff**, managed by **Roddy Piper**.

When **The Fabulous Ones**, **Steve Keirn** and **Stan Lane**, were unable to show up for a Mid-Southern tag team title defense because of an ice storm, they had to forfeit the match, and the belts, to their scheduled opponents, **Elijah Akeem** and **Kareem Muhammad**, who had managed to show up ... **Hector Guerrero** has credited his manager, **Gentleman Jim Holliday**, with helping him win the Florida junior heavyweight title in a tournament. Guerrero defeated **Dennis Brown** in the final round to win the championship ... **Playboy Buddy Rose** is currently on an extensive tour of Japan.

Seven-time NWA champion **Harley Race**, the current Missouri State champion, an-

nounced on KDNL, channel 30 in St. Louis, that he is seeking a rematch with current NWA World champion **Ric Flair**, and a chance to add to his record with an eighth NWA title. The match would take place in St. Louis. Race also disclosed that he is going to be retaining **Bobby Heenan** as an adviser for matches throughout the AWA area. Heenan is the current manager of AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel**. With his obvious involvement in AWA affairs, and his new-found inroads into NWA business dealings, Heenan could become even a more powerful force in wrestling in the months to come!

In a recent Florida match, **Billy Jack** forced **Black Bart** to submit to his full-nelson in less than two minutes. Manager **James J. Dillon**, who claims that **One Man Gang** can easily break Jack's full-nelson, is seeking a match between the two men ... **Jim Brunzell** broke **Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie's** leg in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, with a series of spinning toeholds ... **Greg Valentine** is wrestling in the WWF area under the management of **Capt. Lou Albano**.

Eddie Gilbert reports that he is disgusted with the WWF commissioners and officials. "When **Tiger Mask** came to the United States last year, and he held the WWF junior heavy-weight title, I was promised a shot at the championship. I never got it," he complained. "I was promised shots at **Magnificent Muraco's** Intercontinental title. I never got them. They kept telling me to wait, that I'd get title shots soon. I never got them. I'm disgusted. It's like when the WWF promised **Jimmy Snuka, Tito Santana, and Ivan Putski** title shots against **Bob Backlund**. They never got them. Well, they can stay in the WWF and get jerked around like puppets—I'm gone." Eddie will be wrestling in the Mid-Southern area soon.

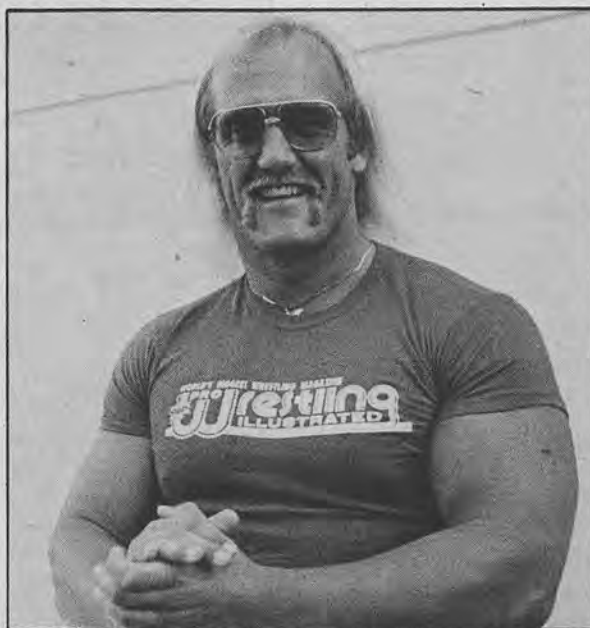
Sgt. Slaughter and **The Iron Sheik**, who represent vastly opposing political philosophies, have begun feuding throughout the WWF area . . . **Stan Hansen** has been meting out justice throughout the Georgia area with his "Texas Toothpick": a hardwood two-by-four! . . . **Carlos Colon** reports that he is looking forward to defending his WWC Universal heavy-weight title soon in New York City.

And a sad note to end my column this month: **Lord Athol Layton** died of a heart attack in Toronto, Ontario, on January 18 at the age of 63. Following his retirement from the ring in 1976 (after over 3,500 professional bouts), Lord Layton devoted nearly all of his time to helping various charities. He was responsible for a great deal of legislation in Ontario that aided the handicapped. A fine wrestler, always a gentleman, and one of Ontario's leading citizens, he will be greatly missed.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches. ☐

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• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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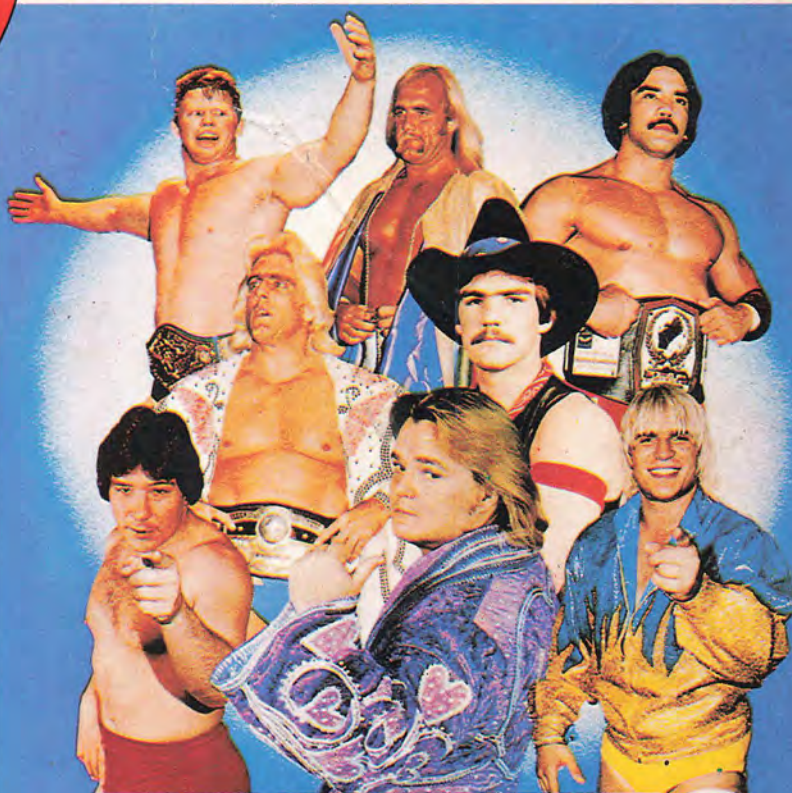
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